

# Salt

Winter 2018 • A Publication of the Sisters of Charity, BVM

## Planting Seeds of HOPE





# SEASONing

## *A Message from BVM Leadership*

**With the turning of the calendar to February, the seed catalogs begin to arrive in the mailbox, and the dreaming begins.** *Burpee, Gurney's, and Jung* offer a variety of garden possibilities depending on the climate zone and the intention of the gardener, from vegetables (the varieties of tomatoes, alone, are amazing), both hybrid and heirloom seeds, to perennial flowers and rose bushes. Depending on the garden's placement, the gardener must consider plants that tolerate either shade or full sun. The prospects are abundant.

The five Dubliner women who landed in Philadelphia in 1833, and were the founding seeds of our congregation, could not have been anticipated what would lay ahead in the years that followed. They had come to teach the indigenous children of a country not yet 60 years old.

Even though this is not what occurred for them, they planted a garden with hopes and dreams that led to ministries and relationships across the United States and the world. There are so many inspirational stories to tell from the years and the places where Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary have served.

Both the seed and the gardener are part of a bigger story that looks both back in time and forward. A seed's genes, inherited from previous generations, prepare it for growth in a certain environment. The gardener creates a culture of care that anticipates fruitfulness that nurtures both body and soul.

Similarly, the BVM community of sisters and associates takes a long loving look at where it has been as we anticipate continuing our mission in God's garden of the world. We celebrate both the planting and the harvesting in this issue of *Salt*.

**As Pope Francis said in his TED Talk in April 2017:**

*To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow. Hope is the door that opens onto the future. Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree . . . A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you.*

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Salt* that highlights the seeds of hope planted by the BVM community as we look ahead to observing our 185th anniversary. The harvest is manifest in those eager to learn, those seeking justice and a place to thrive, and those desiring to know God's abundant love.

Those heirloom BVM seeds continue to generate fruitfulness in our mission and our sense of communion with you today. As Pope Francis reminds us that "a single individual is enough for hope to exist," we're glad and grateful for your companionship and support.

*Jeri Haddo, BVM*

*Lou Anglin, BVM*

*LaDonna Mantermach, BVM*

**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 through 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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## 2018 Calendar of Events

- March**  
11-16 Loretto Community NGO  
Delegation to the Annual Commission on the Status of Women, New York  
30 8th Day Center for Justice,  
Good Friday Walk for Justice, Chicago
- April**  
20-23 NETWORK Ecumenical Advocacy Days  
Washington, D.C.  
22 Immaculata HS Alumnae Luncheon  
Niles, Ill.  
29 St. Mary HS Alumnae Luncheon  
Lombard, Ill.
- May**  
6 Memorial Mass, Mount Carmel  
Dubuque, Iowa  
10 Great Give Day  
11 10th Anniversary of the Postville  
Immigration Raid  
St. Bridget Church, Postville, Iowa
- June**  
12-17 BVM Congregational Assembly  
Best Western Hotel, Dubuque, Iowa

For more information, visit:  
[www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew\\_calendar.cfm](http://www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_calendar.cfm)

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21 In recognition of our Donors of Distinction, included in this issue of *Salt* is our annual report, *BVM Perspective*. For a complete list of our benefactors, visit [www.bvmcong.org](http://www.bvmcong.org).



**On the cover:** On June 11, 2014, BVM Marge Clark closed out the first "Witness Wednesday: Voices of the Unemployed" event, held in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. As she retires, Marge shares her belief that the future of social justice advocacy is "in good hands" and the seeds planted by BVMs and associates continue to thrive. (Photo republished with permission from the Project on Government Oversight)



BVM Mary Antonia Durkin gathers with her students at Immaculate Conception Academy in 1893. The student second from left in the first row is the future Mary Angelita Stackhouse, BVM.

*As we enter our 185th anniversary year of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we feature the first of three articles to celebrate “A Legacy of Love.” Subsequent articles will explore the roles of music and spirituality in BVM history.*

## ‘Freeing Through Education’ for 185 Years

by Kathryn Lawlor, BVM

In 1984, a family in El Paso, Texas, shows their love for BVM Mary Jean Ferry (St. Christopher) during her ministry there.

### In the book, *Half the Sky*, authors

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn stress that “the economic advantages of empowering women are so vast as to persuade nations to move in that direction.”

In 1833, did U.S. President Andrew Jackson reckon that when he claimed to represent the “common man?” Did Bishop Mathias Loras of Dubuque, Iowa, foresee that when he set out to assimilate

Native Americans into the Iowa Territory? Did Mary Frances Clarke and her four friends, Margaret Mann, Rose O’Toole, Eliza Kelly and Catherine Byrne envision that when they founded the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Over 185 years ago, the visualization of the economic position of women was that of servitude. Of the previous 19th century visionaries, only the five women saw it as one of service.

Mother Clarke clarified the BVM congregation’s position concerning the “economic advantages of empowering women” in her letter to an Iowa pastor. She wrote that the sisters teaching in his parish school would have nothing to do with the altar or church . . . “neither make, mend, wash or scrub for it.” She informed him, “They should be paid by the people according to the advancement of the classes.”

It was in the advancement of schools’ classes that the sisters empowered women to move from servitude to service. The history of BVMs is one of service as educators, the ministry that fulfills their mission of “being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love.”

### BVMs Join Westward Movement

Mother Clarke sent sisters to express “God’s steadfast love” for girls within the eight boarding academies she established. Entering these schools, young girls left their frontier farm chores, household tasks, and family obligations. They returned home as young women graduates to join the westward movement, teaching in one-room schoolhouses, nursing in rural hospitals, seizing opportunities for their offspring and raising the standards of living.

The sisters empowered their graduates by following Mother Clarke’s directive to “incite” the students to think. “If we do not do this or if we do it poorly, they will grow up blind to the manifold beauty of God’s creation” of which they were an essential part.

One of the BVMs’ first publications, in 1893, was a small book entitled simply *Women*. In it, the sisters teaching at Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport, Iowa, compiled positive quotes from current periodicals that stressed women’s worth. The book encouraged self-confi-

dence within young girls that they might feel empowered to function within a Victorian society in which women and children were to be seen but not heard.

As BVMs followed the Santa Fe and Oregon trails, rivers, and railroads westward, they adapted their methods of educating to meet the challenges. Small settlement makeshift schools, parish grade schools, parochial high schools, large diocesan schools, and colleges developed with the changing times and places. The sisters also adapted their educational practices to meet the diversity of their students.

## Empowering Others Through Education

BVM founders were Irish immigrants who founded their first American school in Philadelphia in 1833 for children of Irish immigrants. Their next school, established in Dubuque in 1843, opened its doors to children of Irish and German immigrants. For the remaining 19th century, BVM schools began in settlements of Italian, Czech, Polish and Mexican immigrants. Sisters taught immigrants' children of the same ethnic origins in Chicago schools begun in 1867.

As education of these groups moved the generations up the economic ladder, children from the southern African American migration replaced them in the classrooms.

In 1937 during the Great Depression, Mount Carmel Motherhouse property was heavily mortgaged, families bartered for school tuition, and pastors were unable to pay the teachers' stipends—yet Mother Mary Gervase Tuffy saw those suffering from greater poverty and discriminated against by Jim Crow laws (state and local laws that enforced racial segregation in the southern United States). She sent BVMs to open a school for black children in Memphis, Tenn., a school that continues 80 years later.

For her, fulfilling the mission “being free and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love” by empowering through education was of far greater importance than the congregation’s financial state. Later, while the debate about Hawaiian statehood occupied Congress, BVMs opened two schools on the island of Kauai, another opportunity to empower through education.

Mother Clarke wished the sisters to deeply appreciate their ministry as educators. To the first group of BVMs who moved out from the Dubuque area she wrote, “You teach the poor of our Lord. Do thank Him for that glorious privilege.”

## Education Evolves with the Times

BVMs prized learning as the great reward of teaching. Yet furthering their personal education was a struggle. Catholic colleges accepted only men and sisters were forbidden from attending secular universities. Through the 19th century, the congregation found its own way to educate its members, which eventually led to the foundations of Clarke University, Dubuque, and Mundelein College, Chicago. But as states began demanding teachers' certification, they needed transcripts of college credits.

In the early 20th century, Catholic colleges began opening their doors to summer school for women and sisters began the lengthy process of spending their vacations earning degrees. They met college expenses by selling Christmas cards and candy bars.

When the prohibition of attending secular institutions was lifted, BVMs joined other scholars receiving grants for advanced degrees. The expanding of their education

contributed greatly to congregational uniformity giving way to diversity.

When the Council of Vatican II asked religious congregations to return to the charism of their founders, Mother Clarke was waiting. She dismissed the question of wearing habits because she never wore one. Her primary concern was reminding the sisters of empowering through education within “God’s steadfast love.” She wrote in 1861, “When you see a very poor and neglected little one look on her with love.”

Her charism calls BVMs to see the poor and neglected of the 21st century. The ministry of education is no longer confined within classroom walls. It calls BVMs to service in areas of poverty, imprisonment, abuse, illness, addiction, discrimination, pollution, housing and trafficking.

During the past 185 years, over 4,000 women joined Mother Clarke and her four friends. They joined them in their vision of the vast advantage of a nation, especially its women, empowered through education. This vision and the BVM mission are one—“being free and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love.”

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**About the author:** Kathryn Lawlor, BVM (John Laurian) lives in Dubuque, Iowa, and teaches classes at the Roberta Kuhn Center on the history of the BVM congregation. She also volunteers in the Mount Carmel Archives.



Kathryn Lawlor, BVM (John Laurian) and her uncle, Rt. Rev. Lawlor, visit with her fifth grade students at St. Augustine ES in Memphis, Tenn., in 1954.

# Holy Family Parish, Chicago: A Snapshot of 160 Years

by Mary A. Healey, BVM



A drawing depicts Holy Family (Jesuit) Church as it appeared in 1866.

**In the late 19th century, Chicago was** the fastest growing city in the world; Holy Family probably was the fastest growing parish. It comprised all of Chicago west of the river, and the parish kept spreading.

The first pastor, Fr. Arnold Damen, S.J., a famous preacher and devoted educator, laid the cornerstone of the first church on 12th Street, now Roosevelt Road, on Aug. 26, 1857; it had a classroom on each side with sliding doors that were opened to expand the church for Sunday.

Fr. Damen set up a system of schools in the huge parish—including a college which became Loyola University. Early in 1867, Fr. Damen preached missions in the Diocese of Dubuque, Iowa, where he met the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and invited them to Chicago.

## **BVMs Arrive in Chicago**

On July 16, 1867, the BVMs opened two schools in the parish. Over time,

BVMs taught in approximately 30 schools within the city and more in the suburbs. The early immigrants were largely German and Irish, but other nationalities came later and wanted parishes where they could hear their own language. The vast Holy Family territory was divided many times into new parishes. In their glory days, Holy Family schools enrolled roughly 5,000 children.

On Oct. 8 and 9, 1871, much of Chicago burned. Fr. Damen was in the East preaching when he heard of the fire and he prayed all night. The fire was moving west toward Holy Family when the fire swerved north and the parish was saved.

It became a refuge. Bishop Feehan, the sisters and children from St. Joseph



BVM Ann Credidio engages with students at a Holy Family school in the 1980s.

Orphanage, and many others who fled there were sheltered in the schools while Agatha Hurley, BVM led the sisters, who distributed food and other necessities. Dubuque residents immediately sent bread and cheese for 100,000 persons and wagonloads of supplies later. The wider world responded generously.

### **Ethnic and Ministry Diversity Emerge**

Rebuilding the city drew workers and entrepreneurs. The ethnic composition of the parish changed to mostly Italian and then more Hispanic, although many Hispanics attended Spanish-speaking St. Francis of Assisi Church, just up Roosevelt Road. Its Sunday congregation was much larger than Holy Family's.

For a while St. Francis Church was closed as unsafe; the parish was combined with Holy Family, the Claretian priests moved to Holy Family, and the Jesuits left. In 1984, the ceiling of Holy Family collapsed so that big church also was unusable; a chapel was arranged in the large backroom where the food pantry had been and the food pantry moved to a portable classroom outside.

BVMs Otilie Sana and Marion Murphy (John Patrice) worked the pantry for years, but volunteers have taken over today. Friends of Holy Family collected money for 10 years to renovate the church, which is open and beautiful again.

One big change was the building of ABLA Homes, an acronym for the names of four housing projects just south of Roosevelt Road, with 3,596 units and an estimated 17,000 residents, about twice the number of tenants registered. Most of them were black and few were Catholic.

Francilla Kirby, BVM and others who visited ABLA realized that the tenants, like many Hispanic parishioners, needed jobs—that led to Westside Employment Education Center (WEEC), which taught adults reading and math, offered GED certificates, and counseled them on how to apply for and hold a job. Kathleen Doherty, BVM (Patrick Louis) was an organizer, teacher of business skills, and a board member even after retirement. Bilingual Theresa Gleeson, BVM was invaluable as a teacher. Mary Therese Freymann, BVM (Marcina) continues as consultant for computer classes.



Mary Angela Buser, BVM (r.) welcomes students to the WEEC in the fall of 1995.

Another major change was the University of Illinois at the Chicago campus just east. Students and faculty filled the neighborhood. The university medical school led to growth of local hospitals, additional medical facilities, and new housing.

Within the parish, BVMs Alice Caulfield (Alissio) and Marion Murphy served as parish administrators when the religious orders could not supply priests as pastors. Today, there is a diocesan pastor. Led by BVM Mary Therese Cusack

(Kenneth Michael), Holy Family Grade School combined with two other schools to become Children of Peace School, a name chosen by the children.

In 2011, BVMs left the fourth of the convents they had occupied on May Street. Most retired to Mount Carmel in Dubuque, but they maintain contact with the people.

**About the author:** Mary A. Healey, BVM (Michael Edward) is retired and lives at Mount Carmel.



A little rain doesn't stop this dedicated group of BVMs, (l. to r.) Katherine Heffernan, Letitia Marie Close (St. Noel), Rose Mary Meyer (Sebastian), Catherine Krippner (Mary Claretta), and Christine Hannibal, who are gathered for a march and rally for a non-nuclear future in Washington, D.C., on April 26, 1980.

## 8th Day Center for Justice: Taproot to the Future

by Rose Mary Meyer, BVM



Once upon a time I had a tiny plant that had no seeds or sprouts, but on every tip of every leaf a tinier plant would appear. If I took that leaf and placed it on fertile soil, each of the new plants would mature and continue the strain. Only our loving God knows how many "off-shoots" have already matured and continued the good work begun by the 8th Day Center for Justice.

—Mary Janine Wolff, BVM



*"I could not at any age be content to take my place by the fireside and look on."* —Eleanor Roosevelt

**Her words summarize the impact of** the 8th Day Center for Justice, Chicago, on the motivations and lives of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, associates and countless others.

8th Day Center broadened the base of membership and actions of its precursor, the Urban Apostolate, convened by Teresina Grasso, SP.

BVM Gwen Farry (Leontia) remembers: "My introduction to 8th Day was the proposal brought to the 1974 BVM Senate in Los Angeles by former BVM Joann Crowley Beers."

Joann, now an associate, further explains the proposal: "By 1974, we had six communities ready to risk creating a new thing. We took to heart Pope Paul VI's words, 'If you want peace, work for justice.' We looked at the stories of creation and saw that God rested on the seventh day, so on the eighth day, the ongoing creation was in our hands, too."

Since its founding over four decades ago, 8th Day expanded into a 35-congregation coalition, working closely with other groups and individuals advocating

for justice in society and in the Catholic Church. 8th Day Center envisioned a world of dignity and respect for all people and creation.

In the past 15 years, 8th Day has experienced the effects of today's realities facing religious congregations. Since the early 2000s, fundraising efforts and other possibilities for sustainability did not provide results necessary for continued existence. After much exploration and discernment, a decision was made to close 8th Day in September 2018. (Adapted: *News from 8th Day Center for Justice, May 2017.*)

The spirit of 8th Day will live on in the hearts and history of congregations, in the many collaborations, and in the justice seeds planted, sprouted and multiplying into the future.

### With much gratitude . . .

We remember the consistent support of our BVM congregation from 8th Day's birthing through 43 years of presence among us. During these years, the Center's organizational structure evolved into a non-hierarchical governance built upon mutuality, nonviolence and col-



laboration. BVM Joellen McCarthy, office coordinator of 8th Day since 2009, notes: “The organizational structure of 8th Day flows from the belief that how work is done is as important as what is done. Process matters.”

**With much gratitude . . .**

We remember the BVM leadership who were members of 8th Day’s board of directors, whose title evolved with new consciousness. These women are Kevin Gallagher, Mary Frances Shafer (Frances Edward), Eileen McGovern (James Leone), Bernadette McManigal (Lucinus), Patricia Griffin (Michael Ellen), Therese Frelø (Ann Carmelle), Diane O’Donnell

(Joanella), Margaret (Peggy) Nolan (Timothy Maura), Kathy Conway (Richard Marie), Barbara Gaul (Charles Mary), and Colleen McGinnity (Rose Maureen).

**With much gratitude . . .**

We remember our congregation’s 8th Day staff representatives: Associate Joann Crowley Beers; BVMs Katie McHugh (Dolores Marie), Rose Mary Meyer (Sebastian), Eloise Thomas, Carol Cook (Conrad Ann), Mary Ellen McDonagh, and Gwen Farry; and lay staff Mary Ellen Madden and Liz Deligio. Mary Ellen Madden reflects: “The time I spent as the BVM representative were some of the most formative years of my life. I am

grateful for the opportunity to be mentored by and work alongside those deeply committed to the call to work for justice in our church and world.”

**With much gratitude . . .**

We remember countless BVMs and associates who were office coordinators and support staff, volunteers, donors, and participants in education sessions, celebrations, prayer support, and 8th Day peace and justice activities. BVM Helen Gourlay comments on her full-time volunteer experiences: “Together as women and men religious, lay persons and interns, we had energetic discussions on all kinds of issues, deeply moving prayers, and fun parties.”

**With much gratitude . . .**

We remember the justice seeds planted in our BVM and associate lives and the lives of others influenced by the presence of 8th Day Center, calling us to co-create a more just world. Through the way we live our lives, may we nourish those seeds and multiply their impact by sharing the heritage of 8th Day as witnesses to peace and justice for all. May our lives echo the ancient yet contemporary challenge of Micah: “. . . what Yahweh needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.”

**About the author:** Rose Mary Meyer, BVM (Sebastian) lives in Chicago and is director of Project IRENE, an initiative of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in Illinois.



Joellen McCarthy, BVM (fourth from r.) joins the March for Science in Chicago, part of a series of rallies and marches held in Washington, D.C., and more than 600 other cities across the world on Earth Day, April 22, 2017. Photo by Shabbir Bhati.

**Highlights:  
8th Day Collaboration**

- Alliance to End Repression
- Bread for the World
- Central American issues (including rituals honoring the four church women murdered in El Salvador and the first overground railroad transporting an undocumented family to a sanctuary site in another area of the United States)
- Chicago Torture Justice Center
- Corporate Accountability Lab
- ERA advocacy
- Food Stamp Hotline
- Good Friday Walk for Justice
- Grey Panthers
- Homeless sheltering
- Illinois Citizens for Better Care
- Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFACT)
- Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility
- Jane Addams Senior Caucus
- League of Women Voters
- NETWORK
- Project Equality regarding economic issues
- Publications of 8th Day Center, including booklets regarding use of inclusive language
- School of the Americas Watch
- The Peace Museum (and other peace activities including marches in many local areas, nuclear test sites, Washington, D.C., Year of the Pentagon, and Tuesday Morning Peace Vigils)
- Urban Plunge
- Women in Church and Society
- Women-Church Convergence



**GOOD FRIDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE**

BVM Carol Cook has been a “regular” at the annual Good Friday Walk for Justice in Chicago.



*“It has been a good run—people my age need to move out of the way in order for the next generation of wonderful, bright young people to move up.”*

—Marge Clark, BVM



## An Interview with Justice Advocate Marge Clark, BVM

by Bette Gambonini, BVM

**On Oct. 31, 2017, BVM Marge Clark retired from NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C., after 13 years of dedicated ministry. In this interview, I attempted to capture Marge’s motivation, excitement, challenges and commitment.**

## How did your past experiences and ministries influence your decision to take the position at NETWORK?

During my 15 years at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, I participated in the Clarke/Loras College social justice trips to Washington, D.C. During one Holy Week visit, we cleaned shelters around town, interacted with residents and served them the evening meal, and worked in food facilities. After the work hours, we visited the students' legislators and went to NETWORK to learn about advocacy in a faith context. We entered into a faith and resistance retreat followed by a vigil at the Pentagon. Across those years, I got the "D.C. bug," and further realized that I could deal with policy!

## Can you give us some examples of what you found most rewarding during your time at NETWORK?

Oh, my! There is so much. One thing that always comes to my mind is the work with NETWORK "associates"—some of the best and the brightest, and most dedicated to justice action in the faith context, that I could ever meet! NETWORK hires three to five associates each year, for 11 months. They are remarkable, and keep me young, excited and engaged. NETWORK staff attended bi-weekly meetings on the White House campus during the Obama administration. On rare occasions, we also attended White House events, including the Christmas Party in December 2016. Another rewarding experience was getting to know legislators like Ted Kennedy (who came to lunch at NETWORK once), Jim McGovern, Rosa DeLauro, Nancy Pelosi, and Keith Ellison—and their staffs—plus so many others who also have become friends.

## What are some of the challenges you faced?

Early on, the great challenge was learning the background on issues. I began with advocacy on healthcare and social security. Both were technical and new to me. After one year, I inherited the "Federal Budget" work. Having never

taken an economics course, that was a steep climb. However, 12 years later the faith community considers me the expert! Still difficult to believe, but I do recognize that I "get it." About the third year that I was doing the budget, Simone Campbell, SSS (executive director of NETWORK), was shocked that I didn't think that the budget was my greatest passion! It did become that. The change in tone on the Hill over the last several years has been difficult—crossing party lines so that ALL hear the messages from NETWORK, the broader faith group, and other progressive organizations.

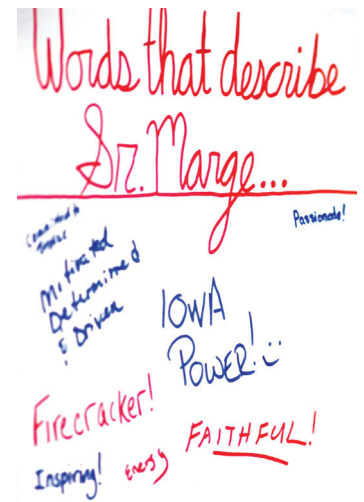
## How have you mentored the next generation to carry on the work of NETWORK?

Every year I have worked closely with at least two associates. The most powerful thing said by anyone at the retirement party, and in notes, was how much I had been a valuable mentor to them. There are young lawyers working with other organizations who talked about their arrival and introduction to lobbying—and how I was their mentor. I was truly taken aback. However, it is something of which I am most proud. I have always loved being in a mentor role.

## What gives you hope that the work of NETWORK will continue to call forth responsible citizenship?

On Oct. 31, my last day, many of the staff shared lunch. What I said to them then is so true: I am leaving NETWORK knowing that it is in such good hands, with the strongest staff that has been there across these years. My successor, Tralonne Shorter, is marvelous. She has unique skills I never had, and would have been unlikely to attain—she is strategic; I am relational. This is what Simone has held is my greatest strength.

**About the author:** Bette Gambonini, BVM (Esther Mary) lives in Sunnyvale, Calif., and serves as liturgy coordinator.



## Farewell, Marge!

On Oct. 26, 2017, co-workers, associates and friends of Marge Clark, BVM gathered to celebrate her retirement, sharing some of the words (above) that they feel best describe her special attributes. In the fourth quarter issue of *Network Connection* magazine, Marge is noted as being "well-known on Capitol Hill for her commitment to justice, kindness, and amazing depth of knowledge."



# BVMs and Associates Live the Congregational Stances

by Marge Clark, BVM

## The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary have it in their bones to stand for social justice! BVM leadership frequently sign letters in opposition to injustices, as do groups within the congregation.

Since 2000, the congregation has taken bolder, formal steps in declaring Congregational Stance in four areas, calling each of us to prayer and action on these issues. BVMs and associates are challenged to engage in intentional, focused prayer for those hurting and for wisdom and energy to participate more actively to create change.

## BVMs have declared Congregational Stances on issues that speak to the signs of the times:

- Opposition to the Death Penalty (2001)
- Immigration Reform (2010)
- Human Trafficking (2014)
- Nonviolence Commitment (2014)

This winter issue of *Salt* magazine focuses on Immigration Reform and Human Trafficking.

## Immigration Reform

We nurture our “awareness that our current United States immigration policy is morally unacceptable, seriously flawed, and out of date.” With current actions against

the 800,000 “Dreamers,” persons holding Temporary Protective Status (TPS), and persons from Islamic nations, the situation has only become more morally critical.

Over the last 20 years, BVMs and associates have joined with the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch in Georgia—and now along the Texas/Mexico border—to stand in solidarity with the thousands killed by those trained at this U.S. School.

BVMs Marge Clark and Gwen Farry (Leontia) served as “Peace-Keepers” during the solemn procession as all responded “Presente” when each name was chanted. Moving the vigil to the border has encouraged BVMs Elizabeth Avalos, Marilyn Wilson (Claudia Mary), and Bette Gambonini (Esther Mary), as well as associates in the West, to take part.

Immigrants are close to BVM hearts, as many sisters have spent time in Central and South America, and ministered with persons who have come to the United States and become part of many communities.

## Human Trafficking

“The Sisters of Charity, BVM, in accordance with our mission and core values of freedom, education, charity and

On Jan. 8, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nearly 200,000 Salvadorans. Catholic social teaching challenges us to promote the dignity of all, protect human rights, and build the common good. Along with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the Sisters of Charity, BVM “urge the Trump administration to reconsider its decisions and call on Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop legislative solutions to protect vulnerable people.”

May 12, 2018, marks the 10th anniversary of the Postville Immigration Raid. Nationwide, people of diverse faiths and cultures will gather to remember the 389 workers, their families, and friends whose hopes were crushed from the raid at Agriprocessors, a meat-packing plant in Postville, Iowa.

**SADLY**, little has changed. This 10th anniversary is a defining moment! It is a **SUMMONS** to press for comprehensive immigration reform!

Mary McCauley, BVM (Mercedie), pastoral minister at St. Bridget Parish in Postville during the time of the raid, shares, “This anniversary calls us to demonstrate our resolve by championing the rights of immigrants and refugees, recognizing, respecting and affirming their inherent dignity, their contribution to our society, and their right to justice.”

## For more information, contact:

Rev. Nils Hernandez | [dbq134@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq134@dbqarch.org)  
Sr. Mary McCauley, BVM | [mmccauley@bvmcong.org](mailto:mmccauley@bvmcong.org)

10th Anniversary  
POSTVILLE, IOWA  
Immigration Raid

**THE SUMMONS**  
MAY 11, 2018

**10:00 AM** – Interfaith Prayer  
St. Bridget Church, Postville, Iowa

**11:30 AM** – Walk to Meyer Park

**NOON** – Respond to **THE SUMMONS**

justice, oppose the trafficking of human persons for any purpose whatsoever.”

We pledge as a congregation to “participate in highlighting issues related to trafficking and all forms of sexual and labor exploitation.”

BVMs are among the women religious leaders acting to halt the trafficking of persons for sex or labor, internationally and within the United States. They challenge hotels and airlines to sign the ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) agreement.

Marilyn Wilson coordinated efforts of Bay Area BVMs who went to hotels to urge ECPAT training; they were most effective in the Santa Clara Super Bowl (2016).

Rose Mary Meyer, BVM (Sebastian) adds, “Trafficking is one of the issues I focus on as director of Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaging Nonviolent Endeavors).” She shared the story of a flight attendant whose training led her to stop a trafficker on her flight. A young girl who had looked intimidated responded to a note the attendant left in the rest room, saying that she needed help. When the flight landed, police were there to remove the trafficker.

Associate Coordinator Suzie Wright, as executive director of Set Free Dubuque, seeks to educate the community, advocate for victims, and eliminate the demand for human trafficking in the Dubuque, Iowa, area. She also serves on the board for the Iowa statewide Network against Slavery and Human Trafficking.

BVMs Mary Ann Lenore Eifert, Mary Jean Ferry (St. Christopher), Dorothy Gaffney, Eileen Healy (Patrick Ellen), Kate Keating (St. Wilma), Irene Lukefahr, Mira Mosle and Diane Rapozo (Malia) are active in the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Dubuque.

BVM congregational stance inspires us through prayer, public witness, advocacy and hard work! We strive to remain responsive to the Spirit in the exigencies of the times. As we go forward, what new stance will call BVMs to act?

### **The summer issue of *Salt* will speak to Opposition of the Death Penalty and Nonviolence Commitment.**

**About the author:** Marge Clark, BVM recently retired as lobbyist for NETWORK in Washington, D.C.



## **What Does God Look Like?**

by Dolores (Dee) Myers, BVM

**Six year-old** Georgia asked me this question as we rounded the corner for the last lap of our long walk. The sky was clear. A warm sun embraced us. You would think I had a quick answer to her question . . . after 60 years in religious life!

*“God is a mystery. God looks a lot like you, Georgia.”*

For almost 10 years now, I have been practicing spiritual direction . . . meeting individually with people unfolding mystery in their lives. They tell me how they are seeking, loving and learning to find how God leads them. I sit, carefully listening. I respond when I hear words which might highlight how God is present, how challenges might be building strength, how seeking God means that in many ways the Divine Presence has already been found.

How did I learn to do this? After 50 very satisfying years of service as a teacher, counselor and pastoral associate, I shifted to explore my own spiritual life.

I looked to Mercy Center in Burlingame, very well-known as the “go to” place in California. This former motherhouse for women entering religious life is now a spirituality center for women and men exploring the many dimensions of God.

The recipient of a Lilly (religious) Grant, I registered for Mercy’s *The Art of Spiritual Direction*. During this time of extensive reading, reflection, discussion and questioning, I explored many elements of life. Gradually, God became bigger than I could ever have imagined.

Upon completion of three years, I earned certification from Mercy Center, through which most of my referrals came. Awed by the task before

me, I started meeting with “directees.” No time for fear, as my training kicks in to calm the troubled waters: **“The Spirit is the real spiritual director. You are the human face of God, sitting with another on this humbling journey.”**

During a session, I join a person in “sitting with God,” somewhat like we sit with those close to us—comfortable, trusting, disclosing, laughing, weeping, hoping. It is the most human of processes. When we “sit with God,” we bring our all and lay it in the lap of our Maker. No stranger to anything. God accepts all.

### **These 10 years, rich with the range of human experiences and cultures, have allowed me to sit with:**

- a Korean professor, grieving for his mother, killed by a bus on her way to morning Mass;
- a woman in a diaconate program for the Episcopal Church;
- a cancer-filled priest, waiting to die;
- a husband, whose wife sent him out of the house, to put himself together before returning;
- a woman whose rights for her child are challenged by her former partner;
- the anguished wife of a middle-aged man levelled by a heart attack on his daily jog;
- Catherine Center women, transitioning from prison to independent living; and
- Maryknoll missionaries coming home to their retirement center in California.

Many faces of God, come to explore the Spirit within them.

*So, Georgia, do I know what God looks like? God looks like you.*

**About the author:** Dolores (Dee) Myers, BVM (Dolore) lives in Belmont, Calif., and serves as spiritual director.



BVM Marilyn Thomas enjoys a “stroll” in her wheelchair along the Mount Carmel cemetery’s Pine Walk with Lori Ritz (l.) and a Clarke University student.

# The Office of BVM Life and Mission: Building Community

by Associate Lori Ritz



Students from Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa, share a reflective moment with Anne Marie Dolan, BVM (Cyrilita) in the Mount Carmel cemetery.

**“Impelled by the charisma of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke, the BVM core values of freedom, education, charity and justice and the word of God, the Office of BVM Life and Mission invites sisters, associates and other persons of faith into relationship and supports them in building community, deepening spirituality, and responding to critical human needs.”**

Building relationships with sisters and associates was my initial focus as the director of this newly created office. I soon broadened my efforts to include networking with local campus and youth ministers, working with archdiocesan schools, and interfacing with various religious and social service groups in the Dubuque, Iowa, area.

## Stories Connect Us

Listening to sisters and associates share their personal life stories intrigues me and offers a way for young people to learn about the BVM community.

Athletic Training Club students from Clarke University, Dubuque, heard treasured stories of deceased BVMs as they walked resident sisters to the Mount Carmel cemetery in early fall of 2017.



Students from Our Lady of Tepeyac in Chicago enjoy listening to stories told by BVM sisters over lunch. Seeing the Mississippi River for the first time, students use their cell phones to snap the beauty of the scene and share with their friends on social media.

Students from Our Lady of Tepeyac HS in Chicago, recipients of a BVM Ministry grant, dined with sisters at Mount Carmel, who shared stories of various ministries and geographic regions. BVMs and associates also participated in a panel discussion with the students, each telling her own individual story related to a core value.

Students from Carmel Catholic HS in Mundelein, Ill., visited Mount Carmel, bringing cupcakes as a treat for the sisters, and joining BVMs in a service project making table decorations for an upcoming event. Laughter and conversation were exchanged as the sisters and students worked together.

Accompanying visitors through the Heritage rooms in the first floor of the Motherhouse brings alive the spirit of Mother Clarke and her companions. During a recent visit a guest remarked, “There is so much history and beauty everywhere you look. I love listening to the sisters . . . each one has a story.”

### Sharing Lives and Ministry

By inviting others to visit or volunteer at Mount Carmel, I have the privilege of sharing BVM life and mission with community members, students, youth ministers, vocation directors, and those interested in learning more about religious life.

Sharing as a guest speaker in a theology class at Clarke University or engaging high school students in a religion class has given me the opportunity to define call, discernment, core values, and ministry in my life.

Through interaction and dialogue, students identify how these words and ideas are concretely present in their own lives. A high school junior commented, “I never thought about values in my own life. But I really do have them. I need to be easier on myself as a student so I am freer to learn more. It is not about perfection.”

Promoting opportunities for service, participating in days of reflection, arranging speakers, and planning social gatherings encourage me in expanding

our “circle of friends.” Organizing events where associates and sisters can engage with one another is another way to share the Gospel message in our lives.

One conversation or email, one encounter or event, can lead to broadening the horizons of the Office of BVM Life and Mission—as we reach out to build community among us, deepen our own spirituality, and respond to the needs of others.

**For more information on building community, reach out to Lori at: [lritz@bvmcong.org](mailto:lritz@bvmcong.org).**

**About the author:** Lori Ritz is director of the Office of BVM Life and Mission and lives in Dubuque, Iowa.



On a visit to Mount Carmel, students from Carmel Catholic HS engage with former CCHS teacher Mary Sattgast, BVM (Mary de Porres) during a panel discussion focused on living the core values.



Associate and employee Christine Olsem (l.) plays for the sisters' Golden Jubilee celebration in summer 2017.

# Association: A Blessing for BVM Employees

by Associate Suzanne Wright



New associate and employee Jolene Clauer (far r.) helps to serve a meal at Hope House in Dubuque, Iowa, as part of a Working Unitedly service project.

## Nearly a dozen BVM

associates are also employees of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A few more employees will soon hold their commitment ceremonies and join the associates in their walk with the sisters. This has been true since nearly the beginning of the associate community.

## A Calling to Relationship

For some, they were employees first, who later felt the call to association, while others were associates who became employees. All of the associate employees who chose to share their stories for this article have expressed a mixture of calling or relational rightness about their choices to be both. Most talked about a sense of connection or family-like unity experienced in their lives through association with the BVMs, and a level of professional satisfaction unlike any they have experienced elsewhere.

BVM Director of Development Andy Schroeder sought out the opportunity to work at Mount Carmel, in Dubuque, Iowa, because "it just seemed a natural fit. The BVMs challenged me as a student at Clarke University in Dubuque to find ways to make a difference in this world. My decision to become a BVM associate was in part accepting that challenge. I am able to partner with sisters and other associates assisting those in need. I accomplish



that by both volunteering locally as well as through my philanthropic support of the BVM Mission and Ministry Fund.”

Grace Mendez is an associate who later came to work for the BVMs. “I was at a place in my life where I had the time to become involved in a more active way with the associate program at the same time that an opportunity was available,” says Grace.

“My work as associate coordinator IS my association activity. I am available for more opportunities to share in the BVM community’s activities, such as retreats at Mount Carmel. I hear about all associate activities and am encouraged to attend as many as possible.”

### Timing is Right

Activity Aide Jolene Clauer has worked at Mount Carmel for more than 15 years and will have her associate commitment ceremony in January 2018. She shared that the call to association has been with her for a long time, but this is the right time for her now that her children are grown. She finds great joy and satisfac-

tion in the time she spends with the BVM community, especially on those occasions when her family comes to Mount Carmel to perform music.

Sherry Jacobs is the director of health-care services at Mount Carmel. She lives her associate mission as “apostolic action taken in the greater community.” Sherry reflects the BVM charism through parish work and ministries with her husband Steve. They have also shared their talents in liturgical music ministry with the BVM sisters through the years.

Some associates live a great distance from other associates and sisters, such as Associate Coordinator Kimberly Emery who lives in Charlottesville, Va. Kimberly wishes she were closer to Mount Carmel to enjoy daily interaction with other staff and BVMs, but uses calls, cards and the internet to stay connected.

“I treasure the opportunities that do arise to meet and get to know other staff members,” she says. “For example, on a BVM service trip to Ecuador in April 2017, I met Laurie Noel, coordinator of dining services at Mount Carmel, and

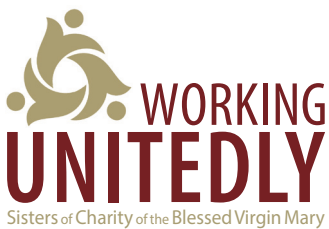
made a friend for life. Being an associate has enriched my relationships.” Visits to Mount Carmel for Associate Coordinating Committee (ACC) meetings or the associate retreat also offer Kimberly time to make in-person connections with BVMs and staff.

Christine Olsem works for the BVMs as the administrative assistant to the congregational secretary. “Where better to start a new career than among other former educators who successfully transitioned into new careers? These women are my mentors,” Christine says.

In 2014, she became an associate. “Even though association is a wonderful way to enter into a deeper relationship with the sisters, it should be rooted in a desire to join the sisters and other associates in actively living out the BVM mission and core values.” Christine often states that being a part of the BVM family is the highlight of her life.

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**About the author:** Suzanne Wright serves as associate coordinator for the Sisters of Charity, BVM. She lives in Dubuque, Iowa.



### Employees Live the BVM Charism

For the Working Unitedly (WU) committee at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, there is never a dull moment—as they plan activities for employees to participate in that reflect the BVM charism.



For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the WU group raised \$615 for an area salon—enough to provide 20 wigs to women affected by cancer.



Local veterans and their families were the grateful recipients of a WU food drive resulting in 20 boxes of food donated to the Veterans Affairs Office.



An elementary school received nearly 500 books gathered at the WU Spring Book Drive held at Mount Carmel. BVM sisters created bookmarks and employees took time to read to the students!

# In Memoriam



**Mary Kay Dum  
(Meda)**

July 12, 1933–Nov. 5, 2017

Mary Kay taught elementary school in Chicago; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Tempe, Ariz.; Carlsbad, Calif.; and Washington, Iowa. She was preschool director in Phoenix; and Montessori teacher/director in Carlsbad, Oceanside and San Luis Rey, Calif. She ministered in migrant Headstart Programs in Orlando and West Palm Beach, Fla.; Durham, N.C.; and Granada Hills, San Marcos, and Carlsbad, Calif. She served as BVM Western Regional and Montessori school volunteer.

*“Mary Kay had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed life. She was honest, caring and hospitable. She liked community gatherings and was knowledgeable and articulate on community issues. An enterprising person, she took great ideas and enthusiastically pursued them to fruition, deeply affecting lives and making friends wherever she went.”*



**Helen Kerrigan  
(Paulita)**

March 19, 1921–Nov. 16, 2017

Helen taught elementary school in Hempstead, N.Y., and Chicago, where she later taught art at Mundelein College. She taught secondary school music and art in Dubuque,avenport, and Marcus, Iowa, and San Francisco and St. Louis. She was university art teacher, department chair, and adjunct professor/artist in residence in Dubuque.

*“Even with failing eyesight in these last years, her enthusiasm for art never dimmed. Often a person of few words, Helen would light up when asked about her paintings and her joy resounded as she described her work. As Jesus gave sight to the blind, her enthusiasm and insights truly opened our eyes, enabling us to see the world in new and wonderful ways. Thank you, Helen!”*



**Marion Pasdiora  
(Jean Victor)**

Aug. 29, 1928–Nov. 24, 2017

Marion taught elementary school in Boone, Iowa; Lead, S.D.; and Wilmot, Wis. She taught secondary school business classes in Sioux City and Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Chicago. In Mundelein, Ill., she served on a secondary school office staff as bursar/treasurer and business manager, was a university secretary, and later volunteered as assistant sacristan.

*“Marion was an extreme introvert who happily maintained a low profile. Quietly and secretly, she brought out the best in people and then graciously credited the goodness of others for enabling her to do good work. She was content and happy, and simply grinned when teased about her quiet nature.”*



**Anne Marie Dolan  
(Cyrilita)**

Oct. 27, 1920–Nov. 26, 2017

Anne Marie taught elementary school in Jesup and Dubuque, Iowa, where she also served as formation director at the Mount Carmel Motherhouse. She taught elementary school in Casper, Wyo.; Milwaukee; and Chicago, where she also taught secondary school Spanish and was guidance counselor. She served as formation director in Los Gatos, Calif.

*“Anne Marie encouraged her novices to dedicate themselves to academic, personal and spiritual growth. She supported their studies and provided opportunities to attend lectures by prominent theologians and to collaborate with other area women’s religious communities. They learned to be independent, critical thinkers, to be flexible and open to change, and to respect differences in others while standing up for their own values.”*

Please pray for the Sisters of Charity, BVM who have died

# November 2017 - January 2018

Note: In Memoriam features excerpts from each Sister's *Welcome*, read at her funeral liturgy. Visit our website to read a sister's entire obituary. [HTTP://BIT.LY/2YMQG7E](http://bit.ly/2YMQG7E)



**Mary K. O'Brien  
(Jean Catherine)**

Oct. 31, 1933–Nov. 27, 2017

Mary K. taught elementary school in Sioux City, Iowa; Bellerose, N.Y.; and Gray-slake and Chicago, Ill. Also in Illinois, she was elementary school principal in Chicago and Wilmette, and served as elementary school resource person in Mundelein.

*“Mary K. did not like to share her feelings or receive recognition for her achievements, but she certainly shared her knowledge and perceptions. Her philosophy was ‘to be as human as possible in the true sense of the word, with the added dimension of our Catholic faith. That includes praying, enjoying the beauty God has given us to enjoy, extending ourselves to other people in need or in fun, and living the Gospel so other people become more aware of it.’”*



**Dolores O'Dwyer  
(Wilmetta)**

Aug. 28, 1923–Dec. 16, 2017

Dolores taught elementary school in Berwyn, Ill.; Seattle; Portland, Ore.; and Glendale and Los Angeles, Calif., where she was also principal and later served as school volunteer.

*“Dolores’ contribution to Catholic education was tremendous. Her determination, unselfish devotion, love, faith and skills as an educator influenced the lives of many students, parents, teachers and staff. She was a source of inspiration as she taught by example that every person is loved and cherished by God, and that we are all one family. She truly made a difference.”*



**Noella  
Cavallero**

June 2, 1919–Dec. 26, 2017

Noella taught elementary school in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Butte, Mont.; Kealia, Kauai, Hawaii; and San Jose, San Francisco, and Sacramento, Calif., where she also served as principal. In later years, she volunteered in San Francisco.

*“Noella was kind and loving to all. Her gentleness and compassion touched many lives. One All Hallows parent in a troubled marriage found a dear friend in Noella. Noella hired her as an aide after her divorce, supported her when she returned to college, and again hired her as a substitute teacher when she completed her associate’s degree.”*



**Mary Paul  
Francis Bailey**

July 21, 1926–Jan. 1, 2018

Paul Francis taught elementary school in Kansas City, Mo.; Milwaukee; Chicago and Rock Island, Ill.; and Clarksdale, Miss., where she also taught high school typing and shorthand. In Iowa, she taught secondary school in Cedar Rapids and was university professor and student loan officer in Dubuque, where she also worked in student accounts. She ministered as high school treasurer and college professor in Chicago.

*Sister Louise French, BVM (Anne) honored Paul Francis on her golden jubilee: “You, Paul Francis, live a life freely given to the service of others. You resonate with people. Yours is an other-centered life of unbounded charity. You respond without fanfare to every request, every appeal . . . Yes, you are the epitome of a real community woman.”*

## We Remember Our Associates

**Kathleen Michelle Krieger | July 8, 1943–Nov. 25, 2017**

**Robert (Bob) Yerkes | Sept. 7, 1936–Dec. 15, 2017**



On Oct. 22, **Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM** was inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Sigma Nu at Loyola University Chicago, the international honor society of Jesuit institutions of higher education. On Oct. 18, at the Loyola basketball tipoff luncheon, Jean was also presented with a plaque honoring her 80th jubilee as Sister of Charity, BVM.



On Nov. 4, **Betty Voss, BVM (Leonice)** received the 2018 John Proctor Member of the Year Award, given to an outstanding member of the Denver Justice and Peace Committee. DJPC is a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting human rights, and economic and environmental justice towards lasting peace in Latin America. During her early ministry in Colorado, Betty received the Trish Dunn award for fostering ecumenism. Her dedication to the cause of human rights has been invaluable.



The Habitat for Humanity 2017 Catholic Build home in Jackson, Miss., was built in memory of **Therese J. Jacobs, BVM (Therese Carmelle)**, a pastoral minister at St. Richard Parish in Jackson from 1987–2001 and 2010–15. Therese was a long-time supporter and advocate of Catholic Build and Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area, and believed in helping working families live, grow and thrive.



In November, **Associate Mary Maas** was presented with the 2017 Champion of Change Award from Amicus, an agency outreaching to those incarcerated. The award recognizes an individual whose commitment has made it possible for Amicus to support those seeking second chances. An Amicus volunteer since 1998, Mary was hired as their reconnect manager in 2006. She helps those leaving incarceration with housing, employment and transportation, among other issues. "I believe in second chances," says Mary. "Amicus and I believe that who people are is not defined by what they have done."

Read the Article: <http://bit.ly/2hM0by1>



**Kathleen Mullin, BVM (Robert Mary)** was awarded "Honorable Mention as Faith Leader" at the 100 Years, 100 Honored event held Nov. 3 by the YWCA of the Quad Cities in Davenport, Iowa. The centennial celebrated 100 years of service to women and children in the community and honored 100 citizens who have made significant contributions to the community in areas of racial justice, civil rights, empowerment, economic advancement, and health and safety.

## Did you miss it?

If you are not one of our nearly 2,700 Facebook followers, you are missing out on great news and events about the BVM Sisters!

### LIKE ...

Loyola University of Chicago leadership visit to Mount Carmel!



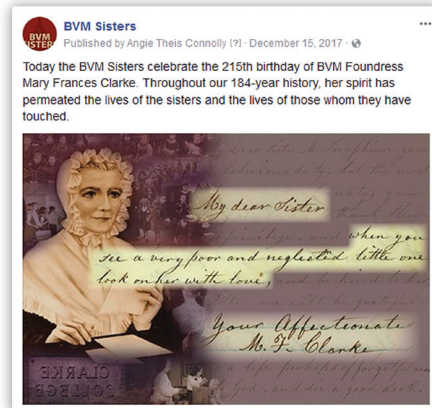
### LIKE ...

BVM leadership team purchasing and delivering hams to the local food pantry!



### LIKE ...

the 215th birthday of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke!



Don't continue to miss it!  
**LIKE ...** us at [facebook.com/bvmsisters!](https://www.facebook.com/bvmsisters/)

# BVM Perspective

2016–2017 Annual Report

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Dear Friends,

*On behalf of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude for your generosity. We are blessed to have the philanthropic support of friends and family near and far. The BVM mission is alive and thriving because of our partnership, which is changing people's lives for the better.*

We are pleased to share *Perspective*, our annual report to donors, with you. The following pages will recognize many of our 5,000-plus donors.

Each gift received is special! As good stewards of these resources, we have chosen to publish only those donors who have been members of one of four giving circles during this past year. A full listing of every donor appears on our website, [www.bvmcong.org](http://www.bvmcong.org). I hope you enjoy reading how your gifts have made our sisters, and those we serve, living proof of what your support can do.

Like many nonprofit organizations, the Sisters of Charity, BVM have benefited from project-based fundrais-

ing campaigns using social media. Some of those special projects that you helped support are found on p. 23. Our sisters played an active role in these campaigns by starring in videos that were shared on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Your willingness to like and share these videos with friends allowed us to welcome many first-time donors to our organization.

We do our best to check our list for accuracy, but mistakes may be made, and your understanding is appreciated. If you notice that your name has been omitted or misspelled in our listing, please accept our apology and contact us so that we can make the necessary correction.

Again, thank you for your continued partnership with the Sisters of Charity, BVM. As always, the sisters will pray for you in gratitude during their daily prayers and Masses.

Gratefully,



**Andy Schroeder**  
Director of Development



**Director of Development Andy Schroeder** was honored as “Outstanding Professional Fundraiser” at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on Nov. 15 at the Grand River Center, Dubuque, Iowa. Andy serves on several boards in the local community. He shares, “I am proud that every day I go to work I know that I will have the ability to partner with people who are trying to make the world a better place. I love what I do and believe in it.”



The women and men 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.



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



Cost per dollar raised for the 2016–2017 fiscal year was 14¢.

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

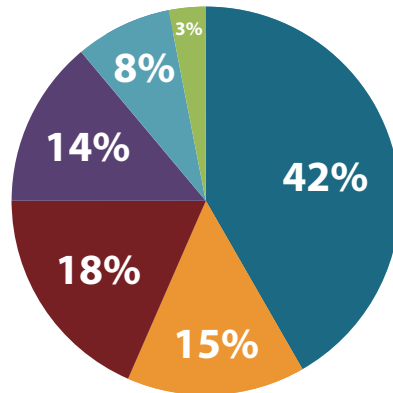


New Donors of Distinction from the past year are noted in **bold**. Visit [www.bvmcong.org](http://www.bvmcong.org) to view the complete list of donors.

For a print copy of our benefactors showing gifts received from Sept. 1, 2016–Aug. 31, 2017, contact the Office of Development at 563-585-2854.

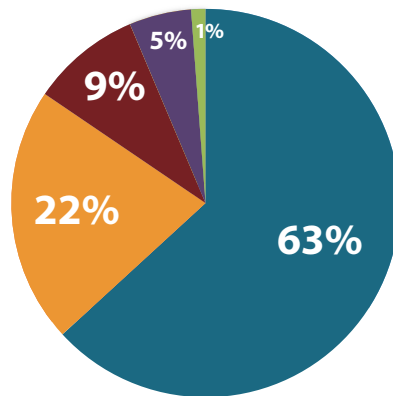
## We cannot thank you enough for your generous support and friendship.

The Sisters of Charity, BVM, 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 of the Office of Development. Total receipts for the fiscal year, Sept. 1, 2016–Aug. 31, 2017, were \$2,876,599.



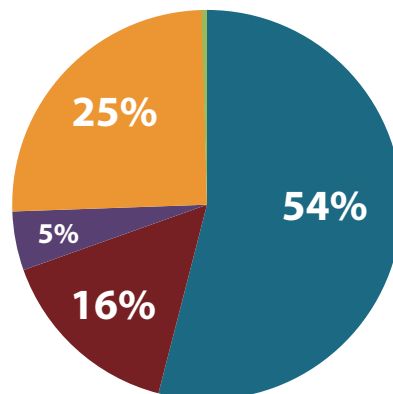
### Who are our donors?

- ◀ Alumni | 4,202
- ◀ Family | 1,496
- ◀ Friends | 1,859
- ◀ Other | 1,400
- ◀ Former BVMs | 809
- ◀ BVM Associates | 309



### Areas of Support

- ◀ Unrestricted Support | \$1,817,530
- ◀ BVM Support Fund | \$613,051
- ◀ BVM Endowed Scholarship Fund | \$262,960
- ◀ Mission and Ministry Endowment | \$148,822
- ◀ International Ministry Fund | \$34,236



### 2016 Annual Appeal

- ◀ BVM Endowed Scholarship Fund | \$258,740
- ◀ Unrestricted | \$121,761
- ◀ BVM Support Fund | \$74,433
- ◀ International Ministry Fund | \$23,450
- ◀ Music Therapy | \$650

## BVM Monthly Partners

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

Names in bold are new members.

Anonymous (12)  
 Judith Andrews  
**Rita Arnold**  
 Katie and John Audley  
**Kathryn and Robert Baker**  
**Christopher Bakes**  
 Paul and Mary Bauer  
 Kathleen Bebe  
 Mary and Louis Bencomo  
 Joan Benson  
 Marcella Betts  
 Robert and Connie Bintner  
 Sandra Bjorklund  
 Hylida Blaske  
 Judith and Queston Boston  
 Lois and Richard Bowman  
 Barbara Bravard  
 Kathleen Brown  
 Jill Burleson  
 Lucille Caravette  
 Katherine Casey  
 Marybeth Coleman and  
 Eileen O'Shea  
 Adrian Collins  
 Michael Collins  
 Norine Collins  
 Violet Corr  
 Sandra Craig  
 Mary Anne Critz  
 Jane Cronkleton  
 Harriet Dailey  
 Rose Marie Davidsaver

Vincent and Mary DeBow  
 Geraldine Delaney  
**Barbara DePue**  
 Dennis Dietrich  
 Patricia and Joseph Dobes  
 M Maureen Doherty  
 Elena Duarte  
 Catherine Eberle  
 Georg and Sonya Ek  
 Fred Faller  
 Peter and Marie Ferry  
 Roberta and William Flaherty  
**Shirley Ford**  
 Katharine and Robert Forrester  
 Fort Bragg Electric Inc  
 Virginia Rose Forte  
 Marco and Narlene Frausto  
 Phillip Genovese  
 Donna and Mike Gomez  
 Eileen Hanna  
 John and Virginia Heitz  
 Marilyn Highlander-Pool and  
 Lloyd Pool  
**Jeannette Holmes**  
 Ilene Hruby  
 Alan and Sharon Kalitzky  
 Francis Kehoe  
 Laura Knapp and Joseph Knapp  
 Mary Ann and James Krems  
 Joan LaBue  
 Christen LaFayette  
 Mary Agnes Leonard  
 Patricia and Michael  
 Livingston

Lois Loveless  
 Rose Mary Luh  
 Tess Malumphy  
**Marilyn and Richard Marks**  
 Rebecca and Alfred Marti  
 John Matcovich and Jennifer  
 Lucas Young  
 Susan and Frank Matule  
 Keith and Dorothy McCaffrey  
 Ralph and Mary Catherine  
 McCaffrey  
 Nancy McCarville  
 Kathleen McCormac  
 Mary McGonigle-McCourt  
 † Mary and † John McInerney  
 Carol McManus  
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## Project Based Fundraising Outcomes

### Giving Tuesday



The Giving Tuesday project provided resources to assist in launching a MUSIC & MEMORY<sup>SM</sup> program at Mount Carmel. Funds helped to purchase portable music devices used to provide therapy to sisters in our memory care unit. Funds also enabled us to hire a music therapist to work with our resident sisters.

**\$15,131** Total raised  
**145** Gifts  
**\$104** Average gift

### Great Give Day



The Great Give Day project received an overwhelming amount of support. Funds helped to replace a transportation vehicle with a new mini-bus, allowing more sisters, especially those with physical limitations, to participate in activities away from Mount Carmel. Anticipated arrival date of the bus is February 2018.

**\$36,354** Total raised  
**232** Gifts  
**\$157** Average gift

### Birdies for Charity



Birdies for Charity<sup>®</sup> campaign funds enabled updates in the Mount Carmel Motherhouse Chapel. Funds from last year provided new lighting, and this year's funds provided enhancements to the chapel's audiovisual equipment. The updated sound system and new video projection system allow our sisters to use the chapel for gatherings and retreats, including one this past summer.

**\$66,052** Total raised  
**506** Gifts  
**\$131** Average gift

# Welcome New Members!

by Jody Iler

The 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 SDN has 19 dedicated BVMs who assist the Office of Development. Over the past 30 years, 65 sisters have served on the SDN.

*This ministry keeps our benefactors informed about congregational needs and serves as a thank you for their generous support. Even more important, the SDN maintains personal relationships with our donors, sharing their family stories and keeping them abreast of events at Mount Carmel.*

**Meet five BVM sisters who share their reflections as new members.**

**BVM Joyce Cox (Petrine)** has ministered in Washington State since 1976. Now living at Mount Carmel, she shares, “It is with joy and enthusiasm that I become a new member of the Sisters Development Network. May

each new day provide opportunities to touch the lives of our donors with gratitude and personal insights in their commitment to us. Joy, peace and prayer!”

“The SDN is so welcoming . . . they were the first to contact me when I arrived in Dubuque,” says **Loretta Hubl, BVM**, who came to Mount Carmel this year from California. “I hope I can live out my mission to be part of such a wonderful group. We are busy writing letters to donors and it pleases me that I was asked.”

Another BVM from California is **Mary Anne Bradish (Leslie)**, now a resident and active volunteer at Mount Carmel. “It is a joy to connect with these wonderful people, some who have known BVMs for a long time,” Mary Anne says. “My monthly letter tells of some of our activities here, along with a few current Mount Carmel pictures. Some respond, telling of their lives. We have become caring prayer partners!”

“SDN gives me an opportunity to reach out to those who make it possible for BVMs to continue in ministry even as we age,” says **Marjorie Heidkamp, BVM (Herberdette)**, who came to

Mount Carmel from Chicago. “Many of these people have been the foundation of our ability to serve and carry out our mission to others for decades; some are more recent. Their generosity is an affirmation of the work we do and have done; we are partners in mission. None of us can bring about the kingdom of God without the others.”

“I feel privileged to be a member of the SDN, to be able to personally thank our donors,” says **Bernadette McManigal, BVM (Lucinus)**, who came to Mount Carmel from Arlington, Va. “Frequently people are asked to give to an organization. Through this ministry, our donors give to persons with names and faces who respond in the name of all of us.”

*BVM sisters, who helped shape the values of many of our benefactors in their formative school years, have found a special way to continue that connection as part of the SDN.*

**About the author:** Jody Iler is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

## Sisters Development Network



Dolores Becker



Mary Anne Bradish (Leslie)



Alice Caulfield (Alissio)



Donard Collins



Joyce Cox (Petrine)



Mary Crimmin (Agnes)



Ann Cronin (Mary Ann)



Jeroma Day



Dolores Doohan (Sarah James)



Alice M. Dunphy (St. Gerard)



Mary Jean Ferry (St. Christopher)



Marie Greaney (David Therese)



Flo Heflin (Floretta)



Marjorie Heidkamp (Herberdette)



Loretta Hubl



Kate Keating (St. Wilma)



Bernadette McManigal (Lucinus)



Marion Murphy (John Patrice)



Julie O'Neill



## 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)
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- ✠ Mary Sally Aylward
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- ✠ 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
- ✠ Mary Margaret Ronan Estate
- ✠ Edward and ✠ Joseph Ryan Estate
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- ✠ Reverend Leon Schneider
- ✠ Robert G and Kathryn R Schwemley Foundation
- ✠ The Immaculata Alumnae Association
- ✠ August VandeVoorde Estate
- ✠ Frances Waibel Trust
- ✠ James Williams Trust

### \$100,000 to \$249,999

- Anonymous (6)
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- ✠ Clara Bendel Estate
- ✠ Helen Brach Foundation
- ✠ Mary Bradley Trust
- ✠ Catherine Cashman Estate
- ✠ Cathedral High School Alumni Association
- ✠ Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus
- ✠ **Christian Social Action Forum**
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- ✠ Conlon Construction Company
- ✠ Paul and ✠ Mary Conover

- ✠ Jane Delaney
- ✠ Frances Rose Dewey Trust
- ✠ Edward Dolan
- ✠ The ✠ E J and ✠ L R Dondlinger Charitable Trust
- ✠ Margaret Dorcey Trust
- ✠ George Dunne Estate
- ✠ **Bernice Ebinger**
- ✠ Mary Madeline Ebinger Estate
- ✠ Mary Flynn Estate
- ✠ Bernadine Foster
- ✠ Elizabeth Gaul
- ✠ Catherine Geary Estate
- ✠ Maurice Giustine Estate
- ✠ Paul Gordon
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- ✠ John Hansman Estate
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- ✠ Dorothy Janssen Estate
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- ✠ Molly Kurtz
- ✠ Elizabeth Ann Lavaty Estate
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- ✠ Kathleen Lally Quilter
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- ✠ June and ✠ Charles Bellingham Estate
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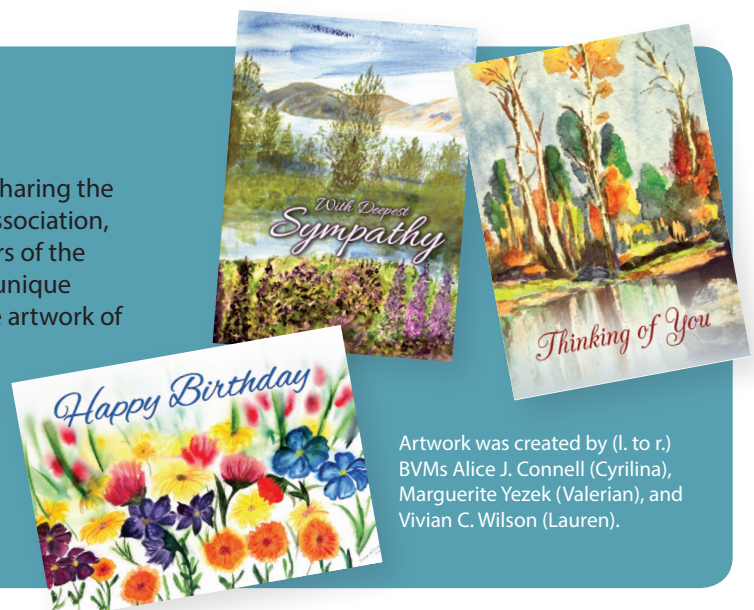
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## Prayer Association

Show your love and concern for family and friends by sharing the gift of prayer. Through enrollment in the BVM Prayer Association, they will be included in the monthly Masses and prayers of the Sisters of Charity, BVM. Choose from an assortment of unique Prayer Association cards for any occasion, featuring the artwork of our BVM sisters.

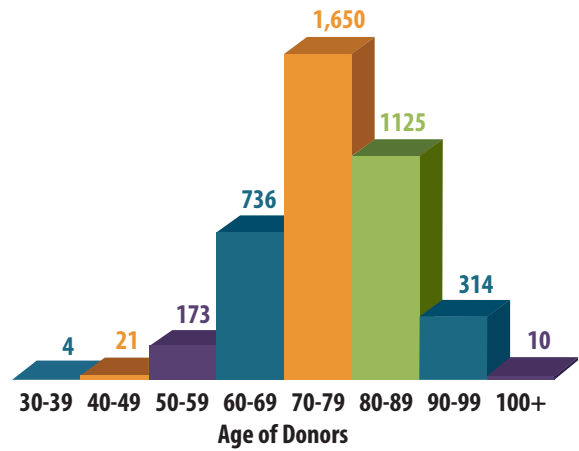
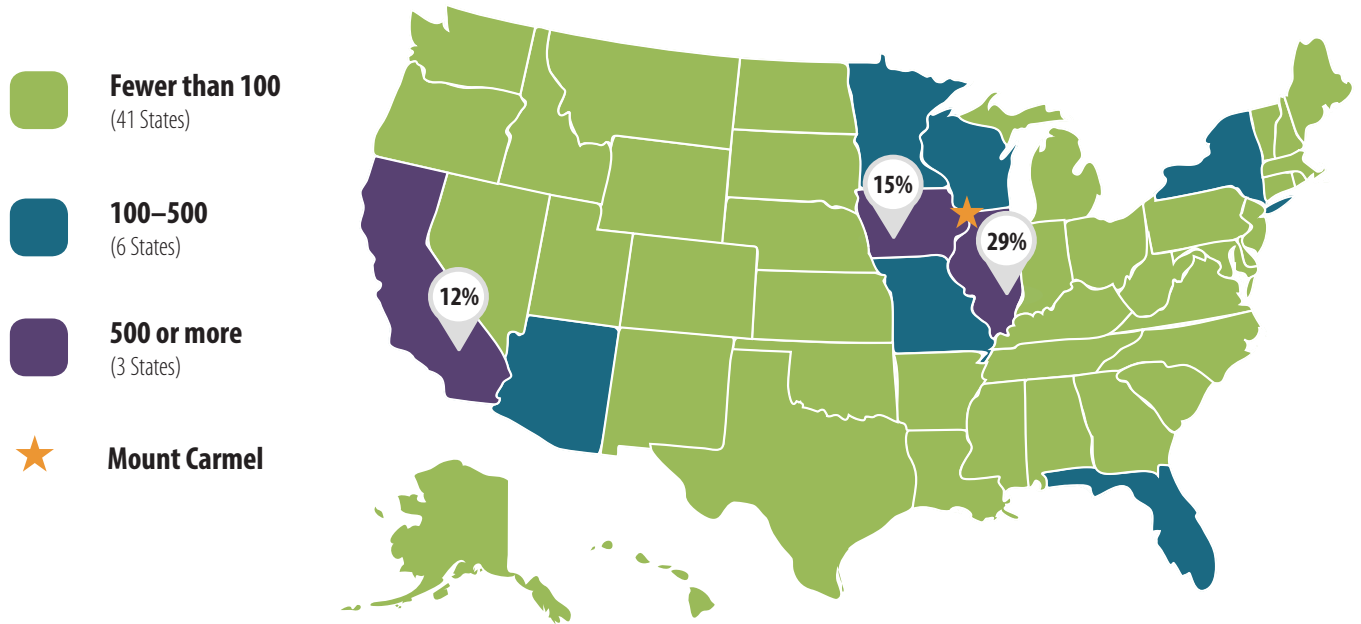
Contact the Office of Development  
 for more information at:

563-585-2854 | development@bvmcong.org  
[http://www.bvmcong.org/support\\_prayer.cfm](http://www.bvmcong.org/support_prayer.cfm)



Artwork was created by (l. to r.)  
 BVMs Alice J. Connell (Cyrilina),  
 Marguerite Yezek (Valerian), and  
 Vivian C. Wilson (Lauren).

# Donors at a Glance



## Did You Know?

**GIFTS**

**10,071**  
Total number of gifts

**\$2,876,599**  
Total amount given

**\$296**  
Average gift

**DONORS**

**5,405**  
Total donors

**781**  
New donors

**759**  
Online donors

**SOURCES\***

**40%**  
Bequests

**16%**  
Annual Appeal

**3%**  
Salt Magazine

\*Highlights of the various sources of income for the 2016–17 fiscal year

# Donors of Distinction

*Mary Frances Clarke Society continued.*

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Francis Rochex Trust</li> <li>✠ Marjorie Roethler</li> <li>✠ Mary Foster Romig Estate</li> <li>✠ David Rose Estate</li> <li>✠ Alexander and ✠ Lucille Rudolf Family Fund</li> <li>✠ Katherine Kehoe Runkle Estate</li> <li>Virginia Kennedy Ryan</li> <li>Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae</li> <li>Saint Joseph Catholic Church</li> <li>Saint Joseph Church</li> <li>Saint Richard Catholic Church</li> <li>Saint Vincent de Paul Society</li> <li>Joseph and Suzanne Sana</li> <li>Jacqueline and Maurice Sardi</li> <li>Ruth Scallon</li> <li>Mary Scarpino</li> <li>✠ Anne Marie Schaefer</li> <li>Beth Kaiser Schafer and Robert Schafer</li> <li>Alan Schoen</li> <li>✠ Mona Schoentrup Estate</li> <li>✠ Dorothy Scholzen</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miriam Schuchardt</li> <li>Thomas and Lou Schulte</li> <li>✠ Mary Scriven</li> <li>Sharon Scully</li> <li>Robert Seelman</li> <li>✠ Helen Shafer Estate</li> <li>Patricia Kennedy Shanahan</li> <li>Don and Erma Shanklin</li> <li>✠ Mary Sharbel Estate</li> <li>Mary Shellenberg</li> <li>✠ William Sherlock</li> <li><b>Marie Shiels-Djouadi</b></li> <li>✠ Lawrence Shimkus Estate</li> <li>Sharon and Jeffrey Sirola</li> <li>Janet Sisler</li> <li>Therese Slowiak</li> <li>Patrick and Mary Sly</li> <li>✠ Anna Smith Estate</li> <li><b>W Jeffrey Smoller</b></li> <li>✠ Elizabeth Smurlo</li> <li>Joseph Smurlo and Hannelore Richards</li> <li>✠ Melvin Soberg</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James and Diana Spiegel</li> <li>Jayne and Joseph Spittler</li> <li>Judy Stark</li> <li>Mary Celeste and Donald Steinwachs</li> <li><b>Patricia Stephenson</b></li> <li>Linda and Terence Stevinson</li> <li>Straka Johnson Architects PC</li> <li>✠ Myra Stratton</li> <li>Paul Swope Jr and Marie Swope</li> <li>✠ Mary Syron Estate</li> <li>William Taylor</li> <li>Anita Terpstra</li> <li>Shirley Smitas Thiel</li> <li>Rosalie Tiedje</li> <li>Keith Timmons</li> <li>✠ Maryanne Tondreau Estate</li> <li>Jean and Kenneth Toth</li> <li>✠ Eileen Tracy Estate</li> <li>Gregory Tucker</li> <li><b>Tully Family Foundation</b></li> <li>Joanne Twomey</li> <li>✠ Lorraine Vantucci</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Miss Alice Vaughn Estate</li> <li>✠ Mary Frances Vergano</li> <li>Marguerite Verschelden</li> <li>✠ Reverend Monsignor Robert Vogl</li> <li>Robert and Donna Wahlert</li> <li><b>Vivian Walkosz</b></li> <li>Jean Wallace</li> <li>Jocile Walsh</li> <li>✠ Jeanne Walsh Trust</li> <li>WealthEngine.com</li> <li>Arlene Welbes</li> <li>Bernard and Caroline Westner</li> <li>✠ William Wetzel</li> <li>✠ Jane Wetzel Estate</li> <li>Lynn Whitmore</li> <li>Michele and Steven Whitty</li> <li>Most Reverend Gerald Wilkerson</li> <li>Mary and Samuel Winklebleck</li> <li>Catherine Wohner</li> <li>✠ Barbara Yusunas</li> <li>✠ Ernest Zenaty</li> <li>✠ Helen Zollmann Estate</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

## Legacy Partners

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

**Names in bold are new members.**

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anonymous (50)</li> <li>✠ John Abbey Estate</li> <li>Therese and Richard Abril</li> <li>✠ Mary Adams</li> <li>✠ Catherine Allen Estate</li> <li>Kathleen Anderson-Knight and Michael Knight</li> <li>✠ Mary Ann Annetti Estate</li> <li>✠ Mary Ann Auclair</li> <li>Mary Sally Aylward</li> <li>✠ Mary Z Babyar Estate</li> <li>Elena Baca</li> <li>✠ Cyrilla and ✠ Frank Bajda Estate</li> <li>✠ Catherine Banville</li> <li>✠ Marcella Barda Estate</li> <li>✠ Lois and ✠ Clarence Barrett</li> <li>✠ Lucile Barry Estate</li> <li>✠ Mary Josephine Barry Estate</li> <li>✠ Nancy Beatty</li> <li>Florence Busch-Beaudry</li> <li>✠ Robert Beaulieu Estate</li> <li>✠ Dorothy and ✠ Fred Becklenberg</li> <li>✠ Norbert Behr Estate</li> <li>✠ Reverend Monsignor Elmer Behrmann Estate</li> <li>✠ June and ✠ Charles Bellingham Estate</li> <li>Karen Morris Bellis and Robert Baker</li> <li>Mafalda Benchea</li> <li>✠ Clara Bendel Estate</li> <li>✠ Rosemary Berg Estate</li> <li>Nona and Jeff Bernard</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Harold Berneman Estate</li> <li>✠ Angela Hanley Berry</li> <li>Diane Berryman</li> <li>The Bisenius Family</li> <li>✠ Alice Bizulis Estate</li> <li>✠ Catherine Blaes Estate</li> <li>✠ Catherine Blake Estate</li> <li>✠ Bernice Blenker Estate</li> <li>✠ Jeanne Kaefenstein</li> <li>Bloom Estate</li> <li>✠ Mary Boden Estate</li> <li>✠ Lorraine Body</li> <li>✠ Elizabeth Bonnes Estate</li> <li>✠ Dorothy and ✠ Evelyn Bouhan Trust</li> <li>Margaret Boyd</li> <li>✠ Kathleen Boyle</li> <li>Rosemary Boyle</li> <li>✠ Clara Boyle Estate</li> <li>✠ LeVergne Boyle Estate</li> <li>✠ Wayne Braig Estate</li> <li>Kathleen Brannigan</li> <li>✠ Adelaide Brennan</li> <li>Diane Maura Broderick and Jim Russell</li> <li>✠ Virginia Broderick Estate</li> <li>Rita Brown</li> <li>✠ Helen Burke Estate</li> <li>✠ Helen Buysse Estate</li> <li>✠ Helen Caffery Estate</li> <li>✠ Anna Cagney Estate</li> <li>✠ Kevin Cahill Estate</li> <li>Joseph Caldwell</li> <li>✠ Terrence Callahan Estate</li> <li>✠ Mary Callen Trust</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Mary Adele Carlman Trust</li> <li>✠ Mary Therese and ✠ Lawrence Casey</li> <li>✠ Elizabeth Casey Estate</li> <li>✠ Catherine Cashman Estate</li> <li>✠ Irma Cashman Estate</li> <li><b>Joseph and ✠ Patricia Chaput</b></li> <li>✠ Mary Catherine Chezik Estate</li> <li>Stephanie Chodera</li> <li>✠ John Christensen Estate</li> <li>Joan and Giles Clark</li> <li>John and Bonnie Clark</li> <li>✠ Lyle Clemens Estate</li> <li>Carolyn Clements</li> <li>✠ Madeline Cohn Estate</li> <li>✠ Reverend Edward Collins Estate</li> <li>✠ Victor Colucci Estate</li> <li>✠ Catherine Condon</li> <li>John Connelly</li> <li>✠ Geraldine Connors Estate</li> <li>✠ Reverend Edward Connors Trust</li> <li>✠ Mary L Connors Trust</li> <li>✠ Paul and ✠ Mary Conover</li> <li>✠ Robert Conway Estate</li> <li>✠ Leona Cook</li> <li>Veronica and Matthew Cook</li> <li>✠ Irene Cook Estate</li> <li>Cecilia Moran Cooper</li> <li>✠ Rita Corbett</li> <li>Maureen and William Cosgriff</li> <li>Ramona Coutre</li> <li>Sandra Craig</li> <li>✠ Margaret Croke Estate</li> <li>Patricia Cronin</li> <li>Susan Crook</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ <b>Monica B Crotty</b></li> <li>✠ Priscilla Crowe Estate</li> <li>Joan Crowley</li> <li>Diane and Paul Culhane</li> <li>✠ William and ✠ Dorothy Cullen Estate</li> <li>Margaret and James Culotta</li> <li>✠ Reverend Ambrose Cunningham</li> <li>✠ Bernard Cunningham</li> <li>✠ Helen Cunningham</li> <li>✠ Leah Curtin Estate</li> <li>Adrienne Curtis</li> <li>Harriet Dailey</li> <li>Willis Dake</li> <li>Reverend Monsignor John W Dalton</li> <li>✠ Laurretta Flick Daly Trust</li> <li>✠ Marie D'Amore</li> <li>✠ Dorothy Davis Estate</li> <li>✠ Frances Dawson Estate</li> <li>✠ Lemoyne Decker Estate</li> <li>✠ Louis Dehner Trust</li> <li>Patrick Delaney</li> <li>✠ Margaret Delaney Trust</li> <li>Donna Dening</li> <li>✠ Janet Desmond Estate</li> <li>✠ Frances Rose Dewey Trust</li> <li>✠ Kathleen Dieterle</li> <li>✠ Margaret Diffenderffer Estate</li> <li>✠ Santa and ✠ Thomas DiMarco</li> <li>Estelle Disselhorst</li> <li>✠ Mary Geraldine Dolan Estate</li> <li>Barbara Donovan</li> <li>Laurence Donovan</li> <li>✠ Joseph Doran Estate</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|--|

# Gratitude Fuels Decades of Support

by Jody Iler

“Go on steady and quiet . . .” is an excerpt from a letter written by BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke. Though these words were addressed to her sisters, they might well describe a particular group of steadfast donors who have consistently supported the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the past several decades.

## We'd like you to meet a few

members of this dedicated group of donors who share how they became acquainted with BVMs and why they continue to support our sisters through changing times and ministries.



## BVMs Provide Foundation

Elizabeth Gross of Columbia, S.C., attended Holy Redeemer ES in San Francisco, where she was taught by BVMs. Over the years, Elizabeth went to grade school reunions and kept in touch with her former teachers.

*“The sisters and my parents instilled in me the values of charity and helping others,” says Elizabeth. “We didn’t have a lot, but my parents were always ready to share.”*

When she became a nurse and earned her own salary, Elizabeth began donating to the BVMs. “I wanted to support them,” she says. “They gave

me the educational foundation and the motivation to go on to school and earn my Ph.D.”

In her career as a nurse in the military, Elizabeth taught at the Army College of Nursing, part of the University of Maryland. “I remembered the sisters who taught me,” she recalls, “and it made me realize the influence teachers have on young people.”

Did the BVMs’ changing ministries, evolving from the primary focus on education make a difference to her in her desire to be supportive? “Not at all,” says Elizabeth. “You can educate others in many ways, not just in the classroom.”

In retirement, Elizabeth continues to support the BVM sisters who have played an instrumental role in her life.



## Early Vocation Leads to Lifelong Ties

As a former member of the BVM congregation for 25 years, Associate Muriel Mendonca has remained in contact with the sisters all her life. She and her husband Ron, also an associate, are active members of the Pacific Northwest Cluster group, comprised of associates and sisters who meet regularly for discussion and prayer.

*“The BVM core values are part of our lives,” Muriel says.*

*“Daily emails from the sisters keep us abreast of and involved with the community.”*

Muriel and Ron live in a retirement complex in Portland, Ore., where they are involved in committees and activities. “We are fortunate to be in good health so we can give of ourselves to our retirement community and to our parish, where we are active members,” says Muriel.

Why have they remained dedicated benefactors for so many years?

“We appreciate the works of the sisters and are honored to help support them over the past 40 years,” the couple shares. “It is a privilege to continue to be part of the community in this way. We treasure our friendships with the sisters and associates.”

Perhaps Mother Clarke best sums up the BVM response to faithful, long-term donors in this paraphrasing of a line from another of her letters, “We feel grateful for your great kindness and charity to us. May our dear Lord bless you for it.”

**About the author:** Jody Iler is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

# Donors of Distinction

## Legacy Partners continued.

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   Marcella Doyle  
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 † L Patricia Fitzmaurice Trust  
 † Louis Fitzpatrick Estate  
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 † Carol Graser Estate  
 † Reverend Joseph Graves  
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## Do you have a prayer request?

The BVM sisters pray for persons in need.

To make a prayer request, complete our online form at [bvmcong.org/contact\\_requests.cfm](http://bvmcong.org/contact_requests.cfm) or email [development@bvmcong.org](mailto:development@bvmcong.org).

Your request will be placed on the prayer boards outside the chapels at Mount Carmel.



**6,363**  
Online Prayer  
Requests  
2016–2017

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 † Mabel McGinty Estate  
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 † Gertrude McKay Estate  
 Mary McKenna Estate  
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 † Marie Miske Estate  
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 † Audrey Zywicki



## Mount Carmel Partners

Mount Carmel Partners are those benefactors who have shown their generosity to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with their gifts of \$1,000 or more during the fiscal year Sept. 1, 2016–Aug. 31, 2017:

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## Mass for Benefactors

In October and November, Masses were offered at the Mount Carmel Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa, and at the Felician Sisters Convent in Chicago, respectively. Over 250 benefactors attended these two events. The sisters were pleased to thank their benefactors in person at these Masses.



Each Mass featured a candle lighting ceremony. Names were read and candles lit for members of the distinguished giving society who passed away during the last year.

## Memorial Mass

This year, 149 guests attended the Memorial Mass for deceased BVM sisters on May 7 at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa. Relatives and friends of those being memorialized joined in the Mass and dinner with resident sisters.



After the Memorial Mass, the Menzia and Lammers families gather at the gravesite of Therese Kulas, BVM (Dorinda) in the Mount Carmel cemetery.

## Join us in prayer for BVMs who died during the past year and those who have gone before them.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Mary Ellen Caldwell, BVM (Eugenio)        | Mary C. McGovern, BVM (Clemento)          |
| Janita Curoe, BVM                         | Claire Marie McLevy, BVM (Clarene)        |
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| Kathleen Doherty, BVM (Patrick Louis)     | Therese Miller, BVM (Therese Emile)       |
| Frances Dolan, BVM (Franciscus)           | Margaret Mollan, BVM (Laurice)            |
| Therese Fox, BVM (Rita Maurice)           | Patricia Ann Perko, BVM (Vincent dePaul)  |
| Helen Maher Garvey, BVM (Robert Joseph)   | Anna K. Priestler, BVM (Joseph Ann)       |
| Veronica Grennan, BVM (Ita)               | Mary Terese Rink, BVM (Lumina)            |
| Margaret Haas, BVM (St. Leonard)          | Frances Ann Schaeffer, BVM (Louis)        |
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| Vincentia Kaefenstein, BVM                | Therese Mary Waughon, BVM (John Francine) |
| Mary Kelliher, BVM (Maurita)              | Elaine Wojcik, BVM (St. Lillian)          |
| Laurian McDonald, BVM                     |   |

## Ways to Support the Sisters of Charity, BVM

### Cash Gifts

Gifts in any amount can be made by submitting a check or using a credit card. Gifts can be designated for the area you choose 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 bank account. Gifts will be automatically made and designated for the area you choose to support. Donors will be recognized as members of the BVM Monthly Partners.

### 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.

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\* Contact the Office of Development for more information: [development@bvmcong.org](mailto:development@bvmcong.org)

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## How to Contact Us



Reach out to the Office of Development at any time with your questions:

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 Dubuque, IA 52001-7991  
 563-585-2854  
[development@bvmcong.org](mailto:development@bvmcong.org)  
[www.bvmcong.org](http://www.bvmcong.org)

## 2018 Save the Date

**May**  
 6 Memorial Mass Mount Carmel  
 10 Great Give Day  
**Oct.**  
 21 Benefactor Mass Mount Carmel  
**Nov.**  
 4 Benefactor Mass Felician Center, Chicago  
 27 Giving Tuesday



**Andy Schroeder**  
 Director of Development



**Shirley Brown**  
 Assoc. Director of Development



**Kyle Collins**  
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**January has been designated by presidential proclamation as National Human Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.**

**BVMs join the Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Dubuque, Iowa, to promote the following initiatives:**

- Placement of billboards with a message to end human trafficking and the national hotline phone number;
- Co-sponsorship of screening the film "I Am Still Here" that focuses on the deception that leads to abduction and sex slavery of a young woman in an ordinary neighborhood;
- Proclamation by the city (I.) to raise awareness of this month; and
- Daily reflection and prayer at Mount Carmel.

**If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call or text the HOTLINE now: 1-888-373-7888 | text 23373.**

