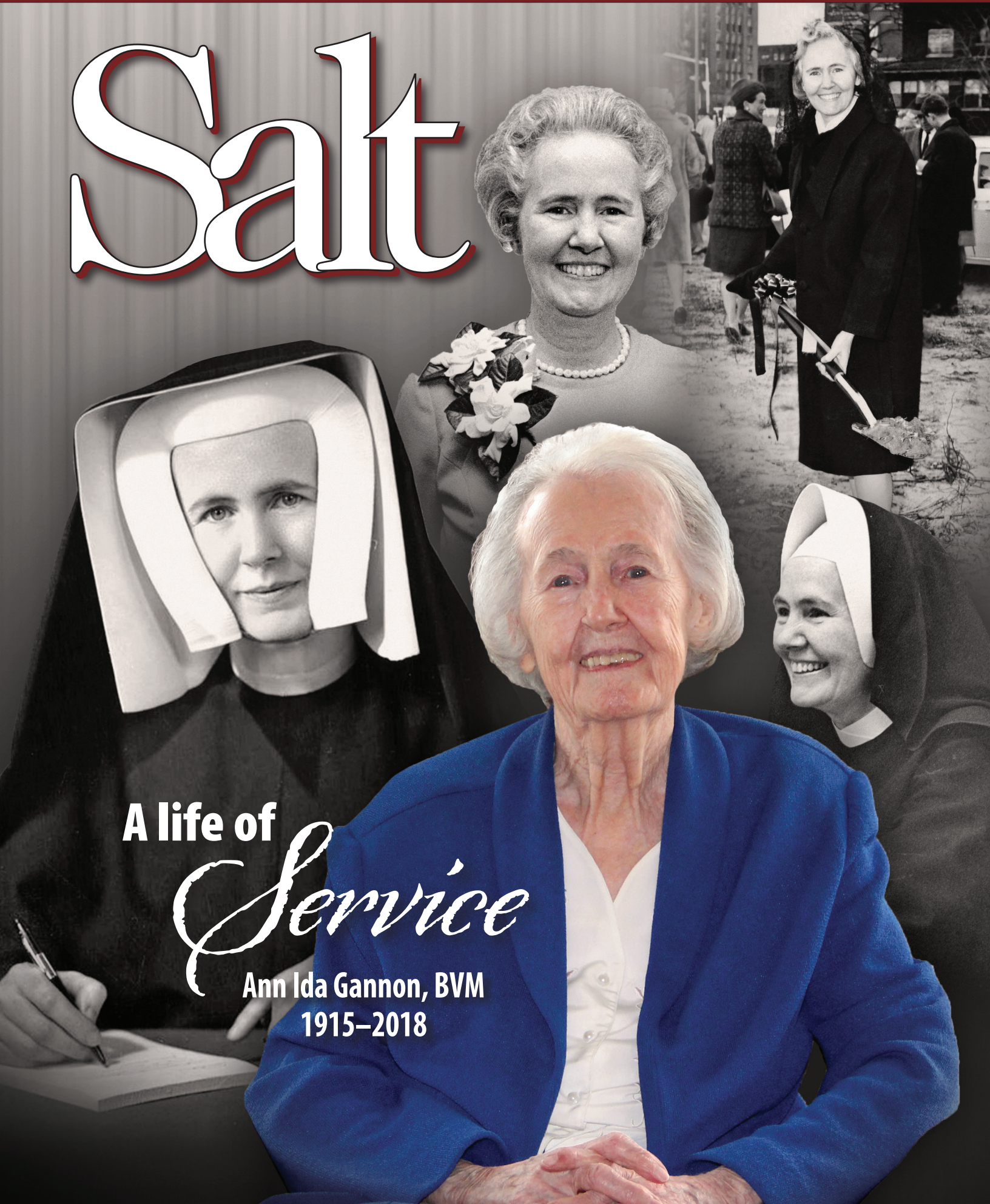


Salt

A life of
Service

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM
1915–2018





SEASONing

A Message from BVM Leadership

Generous people surround us.

From the person at the arboretum tending the flower beds to Red Cross volunteers who drop everything and go to a disaster area to do whatever needs doing, we witness service on a daily basis. As people of faith, we attempt to do what Jesus did and choose to be of service in whatever way we can. Many of us grew up in homes where service was modeled for us. There was a sandwich left on the porch for the railroad traveler, neighbors picked corn for the farmer who fell on hard times, and meals brought in for the grieving family down the block.

On June 8, we celebrated the funeral mass of Ann Ida Gannon, BVM. She may not have wanted us to spend so much time looking back on her accomplishments and telling stories of the difference she made in so many people's lives, but we think she would have been pleased that the stories were of how she had lived a life of service.

The stories told were not only about Ann Ida as president of Mundelein College and as a board member of countless nonprofits, but also about her graciousness and simple acts of kindness. We all left the chapel inspired that day as we so often are after the wakes and funerals of our sisters.

With all that is going on in our world, maybe now is a good time for all of us to remember and be inspired by those generous souls who live among us.

We can attend to the good in people we meet whether it is showing gratitude to the young person who helps us at the grocery store or being mindful of the types of stories we repeat to others. We can choose to share the gifts we are able whether it be prayerful support, a financial contribution to a worthy cause, or reading to first graders. We make a choice to be generous and live by it.

The "Legacy of Love" we are commemorating during our BVM 185th jubilee year is one celebrating service. This issue of *Salt* is rich with stories of generous spirits sharing their gifts—our jubilarians celebrating 70 years, the sisters who served at St. Paul High School in San Francisco, and other reminders of our history of service these many years. We are grateful to partner with you as together we share this legacy of generous service.

*Come, join in the advocacy walk
of prayer and acts of charity, education,
freedom, and justice.
Amen, alleluia!*

Poem by Mary Frances Reis, BVM

Jeri Hadro, BVM

Lou Anglin, BVM

Ladonna Manternach, 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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Calendar of Events

October 2018

- 21 St. Mary HS Alumnae All Class Memorial Mass, Stickney, IL
- 21 Benefactors' Mass, Mount Carmel

November 2018

- 3 St. Paul HS Reunion, San Francisco
- 4 Benefactors' Mass, Chicago
- 16-18 SOA Watch Encuentro at the Border, Arizona/Sonora
- 27 Giving Tuesday
- 29-Dec.1 Santa Clara Faith Formation Conference, Santa Clara, CA

December 2018

- 8 Renewal of BVM Vows and Associate Promises, Mount Carmel

March 2019

- 10-15 Loretto Community NGO Delegation to the Annual Commission on the Status of Women, New York

For more events and information, visit:
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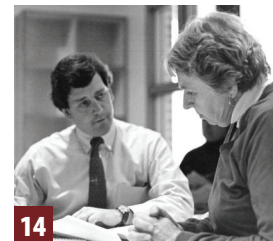
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13 The Heart of St. Pauls



14 BVMs Serving 60+ Years

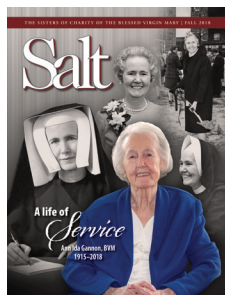
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#GIVING
TUESDAY™

November 27
Save the Date
for an online
giving event!

Last year
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donors
raised
\$50,690
to purchase
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Mount Carmel,
providing safety,
support, and
comfort for
our sisters.



On the cover: Even at the age of 103, Ann Ida Gannon, BVM never forgot the importance of a warm smile, standing up for what was right, or "doing the hard work." Her life, spirit, and love is remembered in this issue by the mission and ministries of her BVM sisters who truly live lives of service. Read more about Ann Ida and the BVM "Legacy of Love."

Photos courtesy of the Women & Leadership Archives of Loyola University Chicago

Editors' Note:

In the summer 2018 issue of *Salt*, the caption with the group photo in "TAPROOTS: Leaving A Legacy of Love" should mention Ruby Taylor (left of center) who worked with Monica (Monita) Cahill, BVM and took over as program director of TAPROOTS when she retired.

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM: 'A Champion for All'

April 2, 1915–June 3, 2018

by Jon Aguilar



Ann Ida Gannon (sitting) joins other former Mundelein presidents (l. to r.) Susan (Michaela) Rink, BVM and Carolyn (Lester) Farrell, BVM and current Loyola President Dr. JoAnn Rooney during a visit in Dec. 2017.

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM always felt called to serve. “I always knew I wanted to be a sister,” she said. At a young age, she turned down a scholarship at Mundelein College to join the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to become a teacher.

It was a dedication she carried her entire life. She died on June 3, 2018, at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, in the presence of her sisters with whom she shared life for 85 years.

A gracious woman who celebrated her 103 birthday in April, Ann Ida is remembered as a leader, a teacher, a philosopher, and a friend. Many of her former students from St. Ferdinand, St. Mary High School, or Mundelein College remained connected to Ann Ida.

“She was well liked because she was honest and cared about everyone,” says

Carolyn (Lester) Farrell, BVM. “I think it was a gift she had. Everyone appreciated her and felt her as a friend.”

Carolyn met Ann Ida during the BVM Senate in 1972. In her wake story, she reflected on their time together. “Sister Ann Ida insisted that for the future Senate . . . ‘We need a young sister for the keynote.’ That was her theme for young women . . . In desperation, I said, “Well, I know one, and I will ask her.”

That “one,” was the late Helen Maher (Robert Joseph) Garvey, who went on to be the youngest leader of the BVM congregation since Mary Frances Clarke from 1984–1992.

‘... Ahead of Her Time’

By many, Ann Ida was regarded as someone who was forward thinking.

“[Ann Ida] was a champion of all people, and of all races and religious factions,” says Janet Sisler, former director of the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership at Loyola University.

“She was very much ahead of her time.”

In 1957, Ann Ida was appointed as president of Mundelein College, where she would serve until 1975 bearing witness to some of the greatest periods of change in the church and the country. She was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, sending BVMs and

professors from the college—including both the oldest and youngest BVMs on her staff—to Selma to march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

That same year, she acted as one of

“My own philosophy is you make a choice and live by it, don’t look back on what might have been.

My life is a life of service,

that’s what the Sisters are all about.”

—Ann Ida Gannon, BVM



the proponents of Chicago’s Catholic Interracial Council and became a mentor for many BVMs who also began welcoming African Americans into their parish classrooms.

Throughout Ann Ida’s career, she served on many boards related to higher education, civic committees, accrediting teams, women’s programs, and lectures to countless groups and interfaith communities—often as the first woman to do so.

“I didn’t mind being the first [woman] on the board just so that I wasn’t the only one by the time I went off,” said Ann Ida.



Ann Ida Gannon, BVM with students, 1973.

Photo Courtesy of the Women & Leadership Archives of Loyola University Chicago.

A Life of Service

Ann Ida led a life of contribution to the well-being of the world. Throughout her career, she received 26 honorary degrees and more than 28 prestigious awards for service as an outstanding woman, including the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal and Who's Who in America.

Janet reflects that throughout Ann Ida's life, she only shared two regrets, "that she had not insisted Sister Jean Dolores attain a Ph.D. and that the Equal Rights Amendment was not ratified by the State of Illinois."

Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM earned an Honoris Causa Ph.D. in 2016 and the Illinois Equal Rights Amendment passed earlier this year. In Janet's words, "One can only imagine that Sister Ann Ida could begin the next chapter of her eternal life with no regrets on this end."

A Living Legacy

Since the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership opened 25 years ago, more than 180 Gannon Scholars have continued Ann Ida's legacy of leadership. The center was formed as a means to keep the legacy of Mundelein College alive after merging with Loyola University in 1991. The center

carries Ann Ida's name as a tribute to her time as president of Mundelein College and her role as a pioneer in women's education and leadership throughout the college's most culturally challenging times.

"She invested so much time in women leaders, not only at Loyola and Mundelein but also in Chicago and the Midwest and the U.S.—everywhere," says Gannon Scholar Megan Keeler. "I'm extraordinarily proud to be a scholar. We're taking the lessons we learned and using them as a springboard to do what we're called to do."

Megan credits Ann Ida and other female leaders in her life with "planting the seed" that put her on the "right path." A current student of the Jane Addams College of Social Work, Megan volunteers with her local YWCA to provide advocacy services for victims of sexual assault and serves on a community advisory board for the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

"[Ann Ida] embodied the ideal of doing the work because it has to be done and doing the hard work that nobody wants to do," adds Megan. When she heard news of Ann Ida's death, she knew she had to be there to say "thank you."

'This Sweet Prayer Up to Thee'

She wasn't alone. On June 3, 2018, the Marian Hall Chapel at Mount

Carmel was filled with BVMs and friends—all impacted by the life of a woman who never forgot the importance of a warm smile, caring for others equally, standing up for what was right, or "doing the hard work."

"The good that she did through her years, especially in education . . . cannot be exaggerated," shares Dennis Keller, co-founder of DeVry, Inc. The school started with only seven students and has now expanded to 200,000 worldwide. "Ann Ida was instrumental in so many ways in helping us and the students and the faculty do that."

Countless others shared stories of a

woman who was "forward-looking, loving, and kind." A woman who wasn't afraid of getting black marks on her face to help a fellow BVM clean out her late father's house. A woman who had a gift of making others feel special. A woman who pursued a Ph.D. in philosophy despite the disapproval of her male colleagues. A woman who always wanted to present herself as a leader for a photo. A woman who truly made "a real and lasting difference in the world."

But no other words summarize her legacy more than the words shared in her eulogy that day:

"In the Parable of the Sower, Ann Ida is the rich soil in which God planted the seeds of faith, vocation, and the BVM values of freedom, education, charity, and justice," reads BVM President Teri Hadro. ". . . However, Ann Ida did not build bins to store the harvest. Instead, she took the seeds and sowed them in the soil of others."

As Ann Ida exited Marian Hall for the last time, BVMs opened their hearts and sang ". . . this sweet prayer up to thee."

"They were sending off a sister," recalls Megan. "Their sister."

“ I feel that the Gannon Center is not only providing leadership . . . it will have the publicity to continue to reach the world at large particularly for those who are hungry for ideals of leadership, integrity, and generosity.”

— Ann Ida Gannon, BVM

About the author: Jon Aguilar is communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM in Dubuque, Iowa.



185 Years and Counting!

Embracing the Mystery

by Deanna Marie Carr, BVM

In 2008, Zdena Mtetwa, a Zimbabwean student, was named a Mandela Rhodes Scholar. An article later published in the *New York Times* revealed how moving the experience proved to be. “Sitting there with Nelson Mandela, one of the greatest legendary figures of our time, the meaning of time began to unfold . . . things will happen, political regimes will change, climate will change, the world will continue to globalize and before we know it the generation that is youth today will be the elders of tomorrow. The time will come to ask oneself, where did I leave my fingerprints under the sun . . . and when the times comes (because it does come) to give it back, we give back on behalf of those who have added something to the basket. And whatever is in the basket is not ours to keep—but ours to give

. . . this is the whole concept of legacy.”

With the celebration of the

Congregation’s 185th anniversary year, many Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are awakening to the realization that for us the time has come. Whatever is in “the basket,” whatever we acquired in those travels from Dublin to Philadelphia to Dubuque and beyond, is not “ours to keep—but ours to give.” And like the loaves and the fishes of old, the treasures in the basket continue to multiply miraculously as we “move into the future responsive to the Spirit speaking in the exigencies of the times” (BVM *Constitutions* 1).

Whose fingerprints have changed? What is in the basket to give back? What is the Spirit saying in the exigencies of these times?

Whose Fingerprints Have Changed?

While it is true that through the years BVM community members have influenced the lives of countless students, friends, colleagues, the history of the congregation also reveals that we ourselves have been profoundly transformed as we have engaged in mission.

It was not only the fingerprints of those we served that were changed. We have, ourselves, been touched by victims of racial upheaval and immigration raids, leaders marching in the wake of violence

and discrimination, seekers after the transformative power of learning.

Kindred spirits, partners in mission, other “migrant workers” have helped to mold the BVM family features by which we are often recognized today. The very climate of the world in which we live has changed the fingerprints that carry our emerging identity. And each time we have taken the initiative to carry the grace of God outward, we have also made a humbling discovery. The grace of God is already there ahead of us—patiently anticipating our arrival in every new undertaking.

What’s In the Basket? What’s Ours to Give?

Ours is a living legacy, still very much a work in progress. With personal

files for over 2,500 deceased members, documents from over 200 missions in 21 states and three foreign countries, over 1,200 linear feet of manuscripts, photos, artifacts, etc., the Mount Carmel Archives testify that the basket is surely, impressively, filling up! Even so, the inventory of the basket is still incomplete. Like those classroom experiments in which there are “knowns” and “unknowns,” there is still plenty of room in the basket for surprises!

In a classic work, *God Among Us: The Gospel Proclaimed*, the great Dominican theologian Edward Schillebeeckx counsels, “Without history we should be deprived of remembrance, fail to find our own place in the present and remain without hope or expectations for the future.”

BVM stories are written in tintypes and needlework, in textiles and artifacts, in journal entries and timeworn ledgers, in technological advances and in the arts. Wherever we turn in our archives, compelling narratives await us. But, entertaining and instructive as these might be, we can’t rest with a repetition of yesterday’s tales. The more we delve into the stories of the past, the more new insights emerge; fresh approaches to pioneering and to mission in a new age; a beckoning God filling our hearts with hope and expectation.

What Is the Spirit Saying?

Generations ago the Holy Spirit called a few, faith-filled, women to board the ship *Cassander*. Mary Frances Clarke and her companions traveled with trunks, boxes (and, yes, with baskets) into the unknown. Our “today” often seems strikingly similar to the “today” that challenged and enticed our first sisters. These times—as those—are at once exciting, risky, exhilarating, daunting, scary. Motivated by the Second Vatican Council’s rich promise we, too, resolve with *Evangelii Gaudium* 24 to persevere as a community of missionary disciples “whatever this may require of us” (BVM *Constitutions* 15). We have made strides, we have failed, we have prospered, we have occasionally lost our way. And through all our journeying, the relentless Spirit can be heard reminding us—now as then—that our fingerprints are even now being altered by the touch

of Jesus and his beloved people.

We are turning the page to a challenging new chapter in the life of our beloved community. Mother Clarke trusts us to think for ourselves, to be wary of any who claim to utter the last word, to close the door, to silence the questioning. Heaven is urging us to take renewed notice of our changing fingerprints, of what has been accrued by the grace of God over the passage of time. And, together, we ponder faithfully what is being asked of us.

We find in the basket calendars new and old, reminders that the future is no more of our making today than it was 185 years ago. So the Spirit bids us set aside fears, invest less in feverish planning, and place our faith in the one whose promise never fails.

Celebrations are in order! The bell from St. Joseph’s Prairie must surely ring out! The Communion of Saints gathers ‘round as we hear the names of our founding members, our deceased sisters and associates, and speak our confident, “Be with us!” And if we truly wish to hear with clarity what the Spirit is urging, we must sit down with that handful of young women who once rented a Dublin cottage in a spirit of anticipation, in a spirit of discernment.

“For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and it will not disappoint” (Habakkuk 2:3).

Once again, we convene the “Circle of Friends.” Once again, we embrace the mystery!

About the Author: Deanna Marie (Bernita) Carr, BVM, served for six years on the staff of the Mount Carmel Archives and in retirement continues to marvel at the pioneering wisdom of archival professionals.

As we enter our 185th anniversary year of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we feature the final of three articles to celebrate a “Legacy of Love.”

185
Years



Painting of Mary Frances Clarke by Romana Walter, BVM in 1992.

Celebrating Community

Past, Present, and Future

by Mira Mosle, BVM

Milestone anniversaries generated virtually back-to-back celebrations for the BVM community this summer.

175 Years in Dubuque, Iowa

More than 100 BVMs joined the St. Raphael Cathedral worshipping community on June 10 in a liturgy of gratitude to mark 175 years of BVM presence in Dubuque, Iowa. Sisters at Mount Carmel unable to be physically present for the celebration were able to participate in the Mass electronically through live video stream.

Mid-morning on June 23, 1843, “Five brave sisters and Bishop Matthias Loras docked at the rough and tumble town of Dubuque,” recalled BVM President Teri Hadro. “Within a month of their arrival, the sisters had opened a school behind the original stone cathedral.”

The remaining 12 members of the congregation landed in Dubuque’s Ice Harbor in October 1843. They subsequently started a boarding school out on the prairie; this evolved into St. Joseph Academy and Clarke University. Later, St. Patrick and St. Anthony parish schools and Wahlert High School joined the BVM

educational outreach. Today, the Roberta Kuhn Center and other ministries nurture faith and learning in the city.

“The sisters have been and continue to be an integral part of our parishes and the larger community,” said celebrant Msgr. Tom Toale, Cathedral rector and Mount Carmel chaplain. “Thank you for being a beacon of hope and fostering a culture of an encounter with God.”

“None of our history would have been the same or even possible had it not been for the hospitality and open-armed reception given to our sisters by the church and people of Dubuque,” said



BVMs and parishoners celebrate with a Mass at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque, Iowa.

Teri. “We have learned much from you during our 175 years here, and we are so grateful God and Bishop Loras led us to this holy place.”

A reception following Mass became a reunion with former students and ministry colleagues, sisters of area congregations, families, and friends.

185 Years as BVMs

On that high note of celebration, BVMs and associates moved into a week-long Congregational Assembly (see p. 10). Those days of discernment and far-reaching decision-making culminated in a joyful liturgy on June 16 in the Motherhouse Chapel giving thanks for 185 years of BVM life and mission.

Reflecting on the years since five Irish women professed simple vows in Philadelphia in 1833, BVM Paulette Skiba said, “When we look back at

our BVM story, we see this sturdy determination to do good, as Jesus did.” Then as now, she continued, “The BVM community is God’s work.” Mary Frances Clarke’s letters express “beliefs we hold still:

- an unwavering conviction that the community is called by God to serve
- and a belief that the ‘will of God’ is deeply connected to the listening of their neighbors.”

For “As God calls us to serve and ‘shelter with’ those who yearn for life, justice, and inclusion, we hear Mary Frances say to us, ‘As to the future prospects of the community, it is in the hands of God.’ It is all we need to know.”

About the author: Mira Mosle, BVM, lives in Dubuque, Iowa, and is active in a variety of justice issues as well as volunteering at Mount Carmel.

BVM Mary Lou (James Mary) Caffery shares BVM history through artifacts that were on display at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque, Iowa, following the celebration Mass.



The celebration wouldn't be complete without the ringing of the bell after Mass by Paulette Skiba, BVM and the beautiful flower arrangements made by Vietnamese sisters (top, r.).



Just a Pinch

Watch the celebration video!

Visit: bvmsisters.org/185legacyoflove.



Psalm 185

Toll the bell tower at Mount Carmell!
Send out alleluias on the internet!

Let our sisters, associates, and friends
join in the celebration
of hearts united in gratitude:
one hundred eighty-five years
of Mary's fiat echoed
on Irish soil,
pioneer America
and beyond!

Touched by God's loving-kindness,
freed by love, working for justice,
let us breathe out a hymn of
care for the world!

Gather together,
dance and shout with hope,
for the Spirit has done great things
and calls us now in this jubilee year
In a new timely way
to re-echo the ancient deeply
rooted call of education,
women, and immigration.

Come, join in the advocacy walk
of prayer and acts
of charity, education,
freedom, and justice.
Amen, alleluia!

Poem by:
Mary Frances (Paul Adele) Reis, BVM

Learn, Laugh, Love

2018 Congregational Assembly

by Eileen E. Fuchs, BVM

It has been said that the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and associates like to be with each other.

This is true in formal ways and informal ways. BVMs and associates met this summer in Dubuque, Iowa, in what was previously called a Senate, a more formal way of meeting. Other times the meeting is called a gathering, a more informal way of meeting. The important thing is that we want to come together as a group of faithful women on a regular basis.

The Senate of the summer of 2018 was the beginning of an evolution of sorts, redefining how we meet or gather and how we can make these gatherings more about each other.

The recurring theme of this wonderful gathering is that the BVM community is entering into a new phase of our communal lives as so many other religious communities. There are fewer sisters, a growing number of associates,

finances available for doing mission, and less need for property.

A whole new vocabulary is necessary to meet these times. The first of these vocabulary changes was addressed by dropping the term Senate and replacing it with Congregational Assembly. This is actually a huge change. As a community we no longer need to meet only as a group that makes decisions but as a group that loves each other and wants to be together. Terminology was an important part of these changes. Assembly was chosen as a term meaning decisions will be part of the process. Gathering was chosen as a term meaning we want to be together in prayer and play.

This particular assembly did involve decision making as there was work to be done. The decisions themselves were not the most impressive part of this time. It was how the decisions were made that was incredible. This leads to the word unanimous. Wait, a decision making body

reaching decisions unanimously? What planet are we on? This happened because so much work was done ahead of time by everyone. Whether part of the assembly, the gathering, or the community, the congregation read and reflected on decisions before the meeting.

Conversations happened. Let me say that again: conversations happened at the local level, clusters, houses, or some other electronic method. Questions were asked and answered on electronic bulletin boards. There was so much conversation with everyone, sisters and associates, joining in on the discussion. “You can clap now,” as Andy Schroeder, director of the office of development, was heard saying several times in his presentation. Well you can clap now for conversations and unanimous decisions too.

The main message here is that the assembly is “never off duty” as one person said. The working decisions made at this assembly, and any assembly, requires the whole body to pay attention always, not just when the group is gathered. In this case, all the necessary work was easy to finish because the sisters and associates did their work beforehand. No surprises, no questions that hadn’t already been raised.

Where or when we gather or assemble it is because we want to. The world needs us, as a group of dedicated men and women, in the model of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke and her companions, to reach decisions through conversation, to meet, to laugh and learn with each other (whomever that may be), and most of all to love.

About the author: Eileen E. Fuchs, BVM is a congregational representative of the Sisters of Charity, BVM.



Team Talk—“Freedom and the Common Good”

Inspired by Margaret Wheatey’s article “The Promise and Paradox of Community,” the BVM council (l. to r.) Lou Anglin, Teri Hadro, and LaDonna Manternach presented “800 pairs of shoes,” reflecting on three ways to express the call to freedom while tending the common good: take care of yourself; take care of each other; take care of this place.



What Sisters and Associates Said About the Assembly

“ The energy of our present moment in religious life spoke joy, simplicity, and justice. The small table sharing centered us . . . our laughter and love was contagious!”

—Mary Anne (Leslie)
Bradish, BVM

“ The presence of the Spirit and the sense of connectedness with BVMs were powerful. I am grateful for the welcoming inclusion!”

— Associate Joanne Crowley Beers

“ It was great attending the assembly. I witnessed an efficient method to educate and choose future pathways for the BVMs.”

— Associate Kathleen Weishaar

“ I always look forward to coming home to be with my sisters. I find our assemblies informative and challenging. This year’s assembly was Spirit-filled, contemplative, peaceful, and prayerful. I returned to Florida feeling excited, confident, challenged, and hopeful, as I look forward to our future together.”

—Ann (Ann Thomas) DeNicolo, BVM

“ As someone who has lived in San Francisco and now lives in Phoenix, the ability to participate in the Congregational Assembly sessions remotely is, truly, a blessing. As sisters age . . . or for those whose ministry responsibilities make it impossible to travel at that time, it is wonderful to be able to participate . . .”

—Kathleen Sinclair, BVM

“ The co-chairs of this year’s Congregational Assembly Planning Committee, BVMs Mary (Loras) Martens and Joan (Ramone Mary) Lingen, did an excellent job of helping everyone feel included . . . We were far more than just ‘observers.’”

—Associate
Sharon Scully



BVMs Donna Bebensee (l.) and Mary (Patricia Mary) Nolan join nearly 170 sisters and associates to discuss: living our vows today, the heart of our BVM community, and facing the future together.

BVMs on the Field: Immigration

by Peggy (Margaret) Geraghty, BVM, and Jon Aguilar

Erika's Story

When Erika left Honduras at the age of 17, her only thought was getting away from a drug dealer who had kidnapped her that previous year and held her for a month before she escaped. She shares, "My mother agreed that the only way to be free from his continuing control was for me to make the journey to the U.S." Her mother found the money to arrange what turned out to be a harrowing trek.

Erika looks back on this time in her life from her new home at Bethany House of Hospitality in Chicago. Along with other women religious, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary sponsor the residential facility which serves young immigrant women who seek permanent U.S. resident status. Bethany House provides an alternative to youth and adult detention centers while young women work with legal advocates to secure asylum or resident status.

"Sometimes we walked; other times we traveled on old buses or crowded in the back of semi-trailer trucks," she shares in tears. Young and old, mothers with babies, other teens, small children—all shared the difficult circumstances. Some of the women who could not pay the full price were abused and raped by the men who

provided the transportation. Crowded together with little to eat or drink, all with one hope—to make it to the Texas border.

After legal struggles and time in a U.S. detention facility, Erika eventually found herself at Bethany House. Today, at 18, with more trauma behind her than many experience in a life time, she works with a case manager and pro bono lawyer who continue to work on her appeal for asylum.

"I hope that people who don't know refugees will have chances to listen and learn from their stories,

rather than thinking of them as inferior people," says Erika.

She is currently attending ESL and GED classes and hopes to pursue a career in cosmetology.

A Call for Compassion

The U.N. estimates that one person like Erika is forcibly displaced from their home country every two seconds, and, in 2017, more than 68 million people were displaced worldwide due to war, gang violence, natural disasters, and lack of economic opportunities. Of that number, the U.N. classifies 25.4 million as refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

According to a report from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, courts granted asylum in only 20

percent of cases in 2017 and 17 percent of cases in 2016. And last summer, the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy resulted in the separation of thousands of children from their families.

In response to these policies, the BVM congregation affirmed an action statement on comprehensive immigration reform at its summer assembly:

"In celebration of our 185 years as Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in grateful remembrance of our founding members who emigrated from Ireland to educate the children of immigrants fleeing their home countries because of starvation and oppression, the BVM Congregation embraces its immigrant beginnings and reaffirms its commitment to comprehensive immigration reform . . ."

BVMs continue the work in the field writing to legislatures for reform, marching with others to promote acts of compassion; and working behind the scenes to help people in dire need with ESL classes, education, food, clothing, and shelter.

At a rally in Peosta, Iowa, Judy (Eugene Mary) Callahan, BVM joined BVMs and other congregations to advocate for immigration reform.

Speaking to a crowd of protesters she says, "It is time to remember the values of immigrants. It is time to acknowledge the pain our laws cause to families separated . . . Now is the time for justice, it cannot wait!"

Read the complete statement on immigration and other BVM congregational stances at www.bvmsister.org/social-justice.

About the Authors:

Peggy (Margaret) Geraghty, BVM lives in Chicago where she is active on a variety of boards and in volunteer activities. She is vice-chair of the Bethany House of Hospitality Board of Directors.

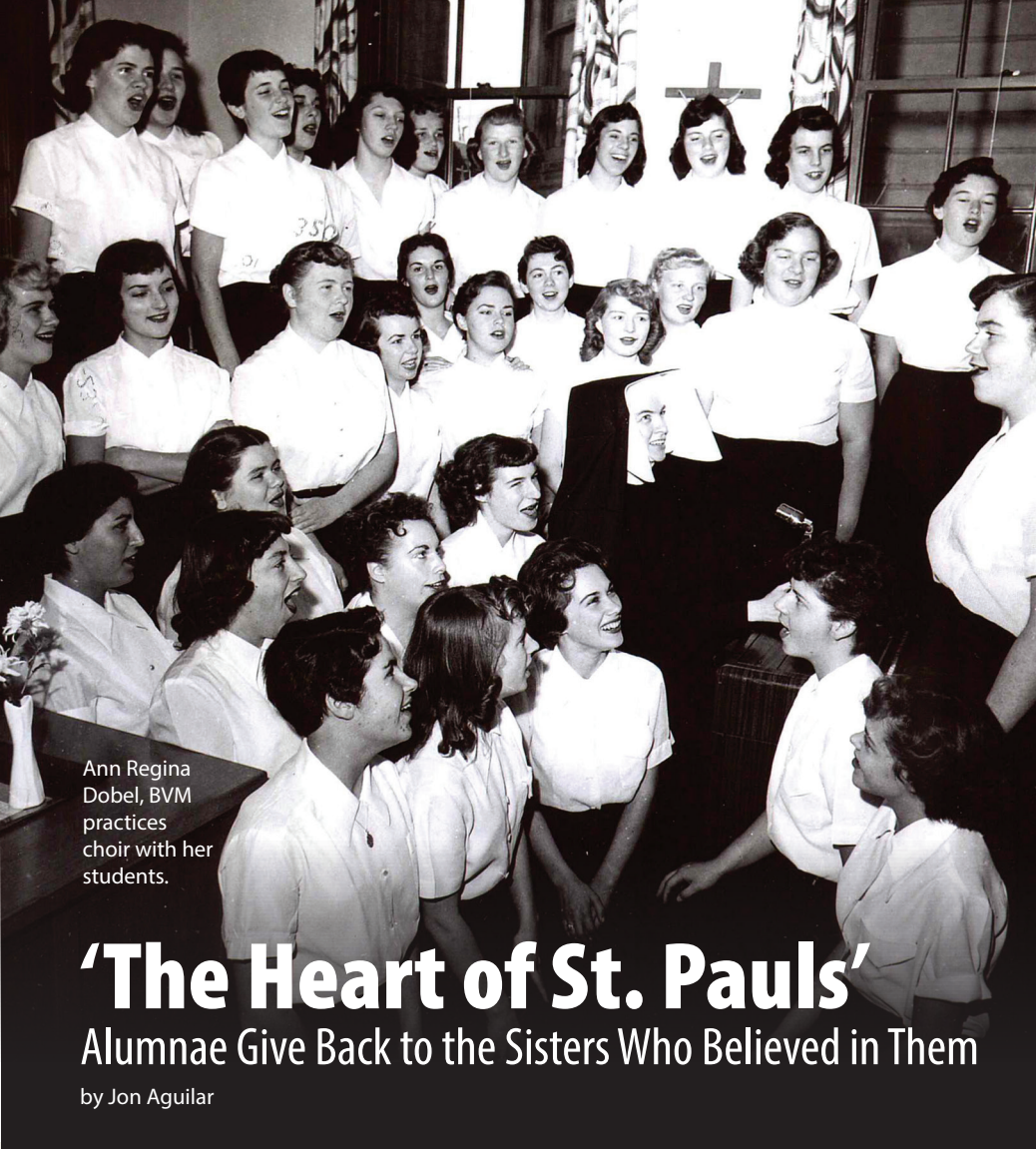
Jon Aguilar is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

“ Sometimes we walked; other times we traveled on old buses or crowded in the back of semi-trailer trucks.”

—Erika



During the Campaign for a Welcoming Illinois, Rose Mary Meyer, BVM along with state senators, a team of representatives, and sponsors stood in support of three bills that were passed out of the Illinois legislature on May 30, 2018: The Voices Act, The Immigrant Safe Zones Act, and The Anti-Registry Program Act. Learn more: www.trustinil.org.



Ann Regina Dobel, BVM practices choir with her students.

'The Heart of St. Pauls'

Alumnae Give Back to the Sisters Who Believed in Them

by Jon Aguilar



BVMs (l. to r.) Julie O'Neill, Karen Conover, Mary Louise (James Mary) Caffery, and Kathleen (Johnine) McGrath join around a bench donated by the St. Paul alumnae association at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

Just a Pinch

Listen to them sing their school song!
Visit: www.bvmsisters.org/st-pauls

"For you St. Pauls we loudly cheer with loyal hearts today..." are the first words to the St. Paul High School song. Words BVM Karen Conover holds deeply in her heart. "I sing it all the time, all the time," she says with a tear in her eye. "There is not a group of former students that will get together that won't sing it—everybody knows it."

She taught at the school for 14 years until it was closed in 1994. For her, St. Pauls was more than just a place it was an experience. One that was greatly shaped by the BVMs.

"I believe every student knew she was very loved," says Karen. "The spirit and the energy and what the alums say about the impact of BVMs and the school is extraordinary. It's not just, 'Oh, yeah, I went to this school.' There's something electrifying."

The BVMs provided the principal and staff throughout St. Paul's 77-year history. Over 100 graduates entered the BVMs and in 1990, five percent of the living membership was from St. Paul's. All from a "tiny school" in San Francisco.

"From a little tiny school, the ripples are great," adds Karen. "The fact that so many young women were inspired to join us [the BVMs] over the years tells you a lot."

Although the small school in San Francisco closed more than two decades ago, the spirit of St. Pauls lives on through its alumnae association and its more than 2,000 active members who still hold on to the experiences, friendships, and sisters that shaped them into who they are today.

"I remember the last day of school senior year," reflects BVM Julie O'Neill (class of 1950). "I lived eight blocks from the school, and I cried the whole way home. There was something magical about St. Pauls." Her experience inspired her to become a BVM after graduation. She later returned to her beloved school in the 1980s to teach remedial studies, a subject she proudly "taught by choice." "St. Paul's prepared me for that," she says with a big smile.

Every April, the alumnae association hosts a fundraiser—giving 20 percent of the proceeds back to the BVMs who continue to impact its alumnae every day.

"We give back because we love them," says Alumnae President and BVM Associate Marilyn Highlander-Pool (class of 1963), "They were good, loving, kind women who taught us how important our faith was, how to be strong, independent women, and how important it was for us to choose between right and wrong. They were the heart of St. Paul's. You can't separate St. Paul's from the BVMs."

St. Paul High School was established by St. Paul Parish in San Francisco in 1917. The former baptistery of the church, now the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel, lists the names of all the BVMs who served in the parish, as well as all the religious and priestly vocations to various dioceses and congregations which come from St. Paul Parish.

About the author: Jon Aguilar is communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM in Dubuque, Iowa.

BVMs Serving 60+ Years at Clarke University

by Associate Norm Freund

Rachel Eppel, BVM served as a postmistress at Clarke University for over 30 years.

While more than 450 BVMs taught in the 175-year history of Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, only four people have served this longstanding BVM mission for more than 60 years. All are Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The BVM math here is simple: $4 \times 61 = 244$ years of combined service!

(St.) Kevin Foley, BVM was the first of these servants, who began her service in 1894 (one year after entering the BVM congregation) when Clarke was still Mount St. Joseph Academy. She was among the one third of BVM sisters historically who neither taught nor administrated but worked in support services.

Serving in the kitchen, housekeeping, and on the grounds crew, she was especially proud of her landscaping on campus and the lake she helped build there in 1916. She did not retire until 1955. Students who found favor with her could expect a treat of milk and cake set out both mid-morning and mid-afternoon. And she was well known for the dandelion wine she made from the spring campus blossoms!

Rachel Eppel, BVM entered the congregation in 1900. She began her Clarke service in 1907, when the

institution was Mount St. Joseph College. While only her second mission, it would end up being the only other one she would have. For 40 years she taught biology and also German, which was the native language of her parents.

Her most remembered ministry at Clarke, however, began in 1937 when she was assigned as postmistress. Serving in this role for over 30 years, she was the beloved “Sister Mary Post Office” to generations of Clarke students. As a woman with a sense of humor, she chuckled in recalling the time that someone insisted on mailing a letter airmail from Clarke to Loras College, just a few miles away. She had to inform said person that the college had no helicopter!

Upon her retirement in 1968, she was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontificate* medal by Pope Paul VI, the highest medal that can be awarded to lay people by

the Papacy. And, she could crochet up a storm, even winning a crochet contest at the state level in her late 90s!

(St.) Clara Sullivan, BVM, entered the congregation in 1916 and came to Mount St. Joseph College during The Great War in 1918. There she re-established the Home Economics Department, and would teach and chair in that department for over 50 years! She is most famous for her “Kitchen of Tomorrow” with its attendant radio show, which aired for the last 40 years of her teaching career.

Over the years, she would publish four cookbooks, be given the McCall’s Award for public service to women, and the Woman’s Year Certificate of Leadership in Dubuque. (St.) Clara was most proud of “her girls,” as she affectionately called her students. Dozens would go on to be teachers, dieticians, hospital and nursing home administrators, and even professors with their doctorates. Although she retired from her professorial duties in 1969, for the next 10 years she worked part-time in the Clarke Alumnae Office.

Ramona (Simone) Barwick, BVM entered the BVM congregation from Milwaukee in 1949. While a teacher in her earliest years of service, in August of 1957 she received a change letter

sending her to Clarke. And here she would remain!

Like BVM (St.) Kevin Foley before her, the entirety of Ramona’s Clarke service would be outside the domain of teaching. Her duties for the first 10 years mainly involved the kitchen. During this time, she served meals to sisters, guests, and clergy.

By the late 1960s she was assisting the postmistress, Rachel Eppel, BVM. That Clarke servant of six decades, now in her mid-80s, was mentoring her young replacement, Ramona. Combined, these two women have served in the campus post office for over 90 years!

At about the same time, Ramona was also assisting in the bookstore, where she would take over those responsibilities as well. The title of “Sister Mary Post Office” having already been taken, Ramona became for the students “Sister Mary Bookstore.”

The similarities between BVMs (St.) Kevin Foley and Ramona Barwick were striking. Both served Clarke entirely outside of the classroom. Both were short of stature and preferred to be in the background rather than the limelight. Deep down, both had a love for Clarke which sustained six decades of service. Indeed, except for the two-year gap between (St.) Kevin’s retirement and Ramona’s arrival, they represent 121 consecutive years of Clarke support service!

While some of these great servants of Clarke labored as teachers, others did much work outside of the classroom. Two served *entirely* outside of the teaching profession while at Clarke. Like Rose O’Toole, BVM (one of the five BVM foundresses) before them, they spent no time in the classroom, but the entirety of their service was dedicated to improving the lives of young people through education.

Teachers and administrators are essential for education, but far from sufficient. All manners of behind the scenes work are needed as well. There is food to be purchased, prepared, and served. Books to be ordered, unpacked, shelved, and sold. Mail to be sent off, received, and delivered.

That service and spirit of BVM Rose O’Toole, which echoes within the Clarke halls, can be seen in all four of these Clarke servants. Over the course of 244 years, at least one of these sisters has been serving at Clarke. And, for a period of 11 years, three were serving there together! As for Ramona, the current member of the class of 61 service years: no retirement is in sight.

So the legacy lives on!

About the author: Associate Norm Freund is professor of philosophy at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa.



Photo courtesy of Clarke University.

Celebrating 175 Years

In 1843, a small group of women religious known today as the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary traveled to the Mississippi River town of Dubuque, Iowa, at the invitation of Bishop Mathias Loras to bring education to the Iowa Territory. It was here where they set roots to build their first Motherhouse—establishing an educational institution we know today as Clarke University the same year.

Clarke opened three years before Iowa became a state as St. Mary’s Academy. After occupying several locations in the early

years, the school was renamed Mount St. Joseph Academy and in 1881 moved permanently to its present location on Clarke Drive. The academy became Mount St. Joseph College, a liberal arts institution, in 1901 and was chartered by the State of Iowa in 1910. In honor of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke, it was named Clarke College in 1928 and in 2010 became Clarke University.

Throughout the school’s history, more than 450 BVMs taught at Clarke University shaping it into the institution it is today.

'Carefree Little Birds'

The Set of 1948 Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

by Jon Aguilar

Seventeen Sisters of Charity

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Celebrated 70 years in religious life on September 9, 2018, during a Mass at Mount Carmel, in Dubuque, Iowa.

In her welcome at the liturgy, BVM President Teri Hadro shares "... thank you for your lives; thank you for your faithfulness; thank you for your amazing responses to God's call. We know where your hearts are, and you are treasures for us. We love you; we bless you, and we are proud to be your sisters."

Meeting the Diamonds

At Mount Carmel, I am surrounded by physicists, artists, historians, teachers, and advocates for peace. Here I am surrounded by love and "carefree little birds."

"Oh, we are carefree little birds. Just listen to us sing. Our hands are always in the clouds. Our hearts are in the wings. You too can be trouble-free and throw away your grief. If you just join the other birds, forgetting you're the chief . . ."

The group sings these words proudly. It's a part of a song they sang in their early days.

"We had to learn to fly and go out and spread the word of God through our wings," says Catherine (Michael Ann) Dominick, BVM. "... we were carefree little birds just learning to fly."

"For me, birds fly all over and return home," adds Eileen (Rose Francis)

Anglim, BVM. "We were sent all over and returned home to Mount Carmel."

Answering the Call

Seventy years ago, in 1948, this group, or set of women, entered through the doors of the Motherhouse for the first and—as the resident historian Kathryn (John Laurian) Lawlor, BVM would tell you—"only time." Many left behind relationships that could have been, families, friends, pets, and childhood homes to answer the call to serve.

Some like Dolores M. (Jeanne Michele) Kramer, BVM experienced what she described as a spiritual call to serve. "I went to the chapel and suddenly imperceptibly I was overwhelmed by God's presence."

Others like Ernestina Molinari, BVM in the third grade shared with her bewildered mother she was going to be a BVM. Ernestina later went on to work



Diamond Jubilarians

First row, (l. to r.): BVMs Vivian C. (Lauren) Wilson and Ernestina Molinari

Second row, (l. to r.): BVMs Norma (Adelaide) Evans, Catherine (Michael Ann) Dominick, Gertrude Ann Sullivan, Jeanne F. (Chabanel) Fielding, Eileen (Rose Francis) Anglim, and Dolores M. (Jeanne Michele) Kramer

Third row, (l. to r.): BVMs Josephine M. (Thomas Kathryn) Roche, Susan (Michaela) Rink, Margaret M. (Martha Ann) Kasper, Lillian (Joan Loretta) Lila, Ann Kathleen McDonnell, Kathryn (John Laurian) Lawlor, Martha (Briant) Ryder, and Bernadette Marie (David Ann) Schvach

Patricia Ann
(Wilbur) Taylor, BVM



as a nurse aid, but when the head nurse tried to teach her how to administer shots, “that cured me of that.” She was reminded of the BVMs, quit nursing, and started her journey into the sisterhood.

Others were inspired by a BVM, a teacher, a priest, or God. And still others like Vivian Wilson, BVM described a father who was so over-protective, “it’s no wonder I joined the convent.”

Every one of them came from different places and backgrounds but ask any if they ever doubted their role as a BVM and they will proudly tell you, “Never once.” It’s something they’re proud of.

‘Dear Carmel Home’

As a set, they admit they never formed a close bond. In those early days of the congregation, silence was often required so the group cherished the songs and skits they performed during their time as postulants and novices. Many spoke of ties to Mount Carmel: the place where their journey began; the place where they were all sent out to serve as teachers and to plant seeds of hope, inspiring the young minds of tomorrow.

“We’re very tied to Mount Carmel,” says Bernadette Marie (David Ann) Schvach, BVM, the self-proclaimed

archivist of the group. “I save everything,” she adds with a smile, pulling out song after song from a three-ring binder sitting on her lap. Reading the titles, I understand what she means, “‘That’s Where Mount Carmel Is,’ ‘Dear Carmel Home,’ ‘Mary’s Valley,’ ‘Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel,’ and ‘St. Joseph’s Old Home.’”

“Ernestina had a song to the tune of ‘MacNamara’s Band,’” adds Bernadette. “My name is O’Molinari and I cleaned the second-floor dorm. I never opened the windows, so my sisters will keep warm. I pick up all the bobby pins I find upon the floor. The postulants are careless. They don’t need them anymore.” Different kinds of songs that relate to what happens during our early years.”

“We loved to sing,” says Vivian. “That was part of who we were.”

Advice for Tomorrow’s Generation

They each continue to share stories about their experiences and share advice for the next generation.

Catherine (Michael Ann) Dominick, BVM starts, “Wherever the Spirit is leading you . . . go wherever it seems that you should be.”

Norma (Adelaide) Evans, BVM adds a call to be mindful of the environment,

“It does you good to go out. Walk.”

“As teachers, we say do your homework,” says Martha (Briant) Ryder, BVM. “It’s the best way to prepare for what’s coming next.”

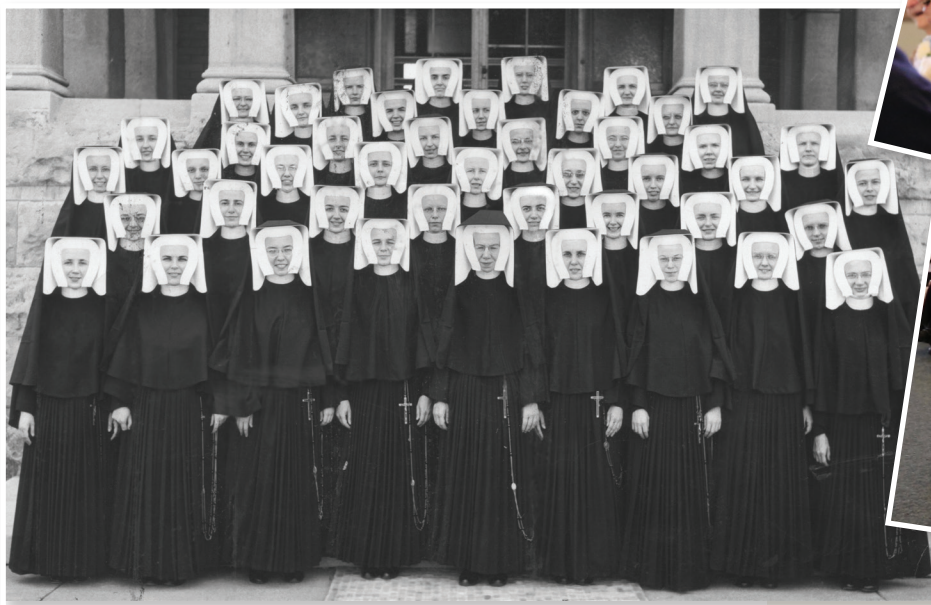
A Legacy of Love

2018 marks 185 years for the BVM congregation. For 70 years, this set has been a part of a “Legacy of Love.” When there was a disaster they went out and helped, or when children needed an education they moved forward. Because, as Vivian explains, “That’s what we do . . . we were always more interested in others than ourselves.”

It’s a legacy that goes back to BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke who in many of her letters kept saying, “Give my love.”

“I think that can be traced through our leadership,” says Kathryn. “All of our presidents and mother generals made sure that love was always some part of what we were inheriting. You were cared for. You were loved and that’s why we can say we have a ‘Legacy of Love.’ We’re still loved, and we still love.”

About the author: Jon Aguilar is communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM in Dubuque, Iowa.



Friends and family raise their arms to bless the jubilarians who entered 70 years ago (r.) most of whom took their final vows in 1956 (above).



Dolores M. (Jeanne Michele) Kramer, BVM, celebrates her Diamond Jubilee during a Mass at Mount Carmel.



Just a Pinch

Want to listen to more stories from the set of 1948? Visit: bvmsisters.org/2018jubilarians.

In Memoriam



Marian (William Marie) Hurley, BVM
Jan. 26, 1928–May 1, 2018

Marian taught or ministered in Chicago, Grayslake, and Maywood, Ill.; West Hempstead, N.Y.; San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Glendale, Calif.

“Marian enjoyed the feeling of partnership in helping people love themselves and honoring their whole being as the temple of the Holy Spirit’ . . . She loved everyone with whom she came in contact. She was a beautiful person who lived kindness.”



Rose André Koehler, BVM
Oct. 13, 1925–May 8, 2018

Rose André taught or ministered in Des Moines, Dubuque and Davenport, Iowa; Butte, Mont.; Chicago; Lincoln, Neb.; Stockton, Calif.; and Montgomery, Ala.

“Rose André was a true listener whose sincere interest in people was evident in her sympathetic, understanding, and generous heart. She was pleasant, kind, loyal, and deeply grateful to the BVM community.”



Madalyn (Renata) Hogan, BVM
Sept. 21, 1919–May 13, 2018

Madalyn taught or ministered in Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago; Grayslake, Ill.; Omaha, Neb.; Clarksdale, Miss.; and Tutwiler, Miss.

“Maddie’s community-mindedness and love for her BVM sisters is apparent in her funeral theme—‘Surely the presence of God is in this place.’ Maddie loved deeply and was deeply loved. Her sincerity, warmth, and laughter will be greatly missed.”



Gayle (Luellen) Brabec, BVM
Sept. 21, 1928–May 30, 2018

Gayle taught or ministered in Frenchburg, Ky.; Davenport, Des Moines, and Sioux City, Iowa; Butte, Mont.; Chicago; Boulder, Colo.; Kauai, Hawaii; and New York.

“Gayle worked endlessly to help people realize that urban and rural interdependence is necessary for our survival. Gayle helped to start a summer youth program where they raised crops later harvested to feed the needy. She hoped they’d gained a greater appreciation of how rural people depended upon farming for their livelihood.”

We Remember Our Associates

Wilma Horan
Dec. 20, 1934–May 25, 2018

Mary Anne Kean
April 18, 1922–July 14, 2018

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

April 2018–September 2018



**Ann Ida
Gannon, BVM**

April 2, 1915–June 3, 2018

Ann Ida was president, professor, and archivist at Mundelein College, Chicago. She also taught in Waterloo, Iowa.

“Ann Ida led a life of contribution to the well-being of the world. Throughout her career, she received 26 honorary degrees and more than two dozen prestigious awards for service in education or as an outstanding woman, including the University of Notre Dame’s Laetare Medal and Who’s Who in America.”



**Jeanne (Suzette)
Granville, BVM**

May 6, 1928–June 10, 2018

Jeanne taught or ministered in St. Louis and Crestwood, Mo.; Chicago, Maywood, Round Lake, and Calumet Park, Ill.; Jackson, Miss.; and Hempstead, N.Y.

“She was gracious, thoughtful, kind, witty, and a perfectionist in work ethic and appearance. She found great enjoyment spending time with those dear to her, as well as traveling, chocolate, and shopping, but only if it was a bargain. She loved dogs and was committed to all things St. Louis, especially the St. Louis Cardinals.”



**Ethel (Howard)
Dignan, BVM**

May 19, 1924–June 14, 2018

Ethel taught or ministered in Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago; Los Angeles, San José, and Los Gatos, Calif.

“Ethel was a very intelligent woman open to new ideas and involved in women’s issues. She was devoted to her family, faithful to her friends, genuinely interested in people, and always a good listener . . . She was deeply spiritual, a woman of faith and prayer who liked to share her reflections and insights with others.”



**(St.) Philomena
Rosselli, BVM**

Sept. 13, 1920–June 15, 2018

Philomena was an elementary teacher in Dubuque and Maquoketa, Iowa; Chicago; Butte, Mont.; Missoula, Mont.; and San Francisco.

“Philomena was a gentle, kind, sweet woman, quiet and undemanding. She was sensitive and very aware of others. She remembered all the little things done for her and the people who did them, and expressed her gratitude freely and often. . . . When asked how she would like to be remembered, Philomena made a simple request instead: ‘Please pray for me.’”



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.
www.bvmsisters.org/obituaries

In Memoriam continued on p. 20

In Memoriam

Continued from p. 19



**Maurine Therese
Thiel, BVM**

July 9, 1931–June 28, 2018

Maurine Therese taught or ministered in Chicago, Lincoln, Norridge, and Waukegan, Ill.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Dubuque, Iowa.

“Maurine’s ministry to primary children was inspiring. There is no doubt that she loved her students and they loved her. . . She considered it her duty to create a happy, peaceful, and comfortable environment that fostered positive self-esteem in the ‘precious human gifts’ that God entrusted to her.”



**Mary Enid
Lodding, BVM**

March 14, 1927–July 27, 2018

Mary Enid taught or ministered in Muscatine, Davenport, and Iowa City, Iowa; Arlington, Addison Chicago, and East Moline, Rock Island; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Seattle, Wash.; and Portland, Ore.

“The pastor of St. Phillip the Apostle Parish wrote, ‘Sister Enid has shared generously in the faith formation of our parish children. She has been an inspiration to her teachers, her students, and all who are challenged to do God’s work. Her contagious laughter and joy were always in evidence as she shared her gifts unselfishly.’”



**Therese (Ann
Carmelle) Frelø, BVM**

Aug. 8, 1930–Aug. 17, 2018

Therese taught or ministered in Davenport, Iowa; Chicago and Cicero, Ill.; Clarksdale, Miss.; and Memphis, Tenn.

“Therese wrote, ‘I have been gifted with many friends, good health, and a loving community. Never did I dream . . . that I would have the opportunities for professional and spiritual growth that the BVM congregation has provided for me. My experiences as a BVM . . . have broadened my view of church, society, and the needs of the poor and, therefore, have contributed to make me who I am today.’”



**Barbara
Cerny, BVM**

July 5, 1926–Aug. 19, 2018

Barbara taught or ministered in Dubuque and Emmetsburg, Iowa; Chicago; Los Angeles and Tujunga, Calif.; and Albuquerque, N.M.

“No matter the school, Barbara’s students greatly appreciated her good nature, humor, and her artistic talent . . . As Jesus gave sight to the blind Bartimaeus, Barbara, too, helped others to see. Yes, her students to see their potential, but also viewers of her art to see the importance of our ordinary, everyday world.”



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.
www.bvmsisters.org/obituaries

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

April 2018–September 2018



**Ann Regina
Dobel, BVM**

Sept. 3, 1916–Sept. 2, 2018

Ann Regina taught or ministered in Burlington, Iowa; Milwaukee, Wis.; Chicago; San Francisco; Boulder, Colo.; and Phoenix, Ariz.

“A spirit of adventure dwelled within Ann Regina as she eagerly embraced new experiences. She had a great laugh that drew people into her circle. She never took herself or situations too seriously . . . A former student wrote, ‘Sister Ann Regina is one of the strongest, wisest, most encouraging women I have ever known. She is the epitome of a woman of culture and of a woman of God.’”



**Helen (St. George)
Thompson, BVM**

Jan. 19, 1933–Sept. 4, 2018

Helen taught or ministered in Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago; and Santa Clara and San José, Calif.

“Helen lived her adult life as a wisdom seeker. I spent a lot of time wandering in deserts—beautiful ones like Sedona and Death Valley, desolate places like Spirit Lake after Mount St. Helens erupted, and mostly in the desert places of my own soul . . . I am grateful for all that has been; the first half for learning all the things I needed to transform, and for the happiness, I’ve known during the second half.”



**Kathleen M. (Donall)
O’Sullivan, BVM**

May 13, 1928–Sept. 12, 2018

Kathleen taught and ministered in Chicago; Butte and Missoula, Mont.; San Francisco and Kauai, Hawaii.

“Kathleen called her work as an activist the ‘most difficult and most fulfilling . . . Unless you come in contact with someone who is suffering or oppressed, it doesn’t become real for you. I’ve begun to understand that this is what the Gospel is about. This is what Jesus talked about when he spoke about all those marginalized people . . .’ One pastor remarked, ‘Her whole journey of faith has been moving in the direction of living the Scriptures . . . She has done it in wonderful ways.’”



**Ann Ellen
Quirk, BVM**

Feb. 8, 1931–Sept. 22, 2018

Ann Ellen taught or ministered in Clinton, Iowa; Chicago, Rock Island, and Wilmington, Ill.

“A true servant of the needy, Sister Ann Ellen sees Christ in everyone whom she encounters. She lives the Gospel values, loving God and neighbor as self, and affirms in her work the mission of the Sisters of Charity to help others experience acceptance and true freedom in God’s steadfast love.”

Photo by Linda Behrens



Being in Communion: Standing against Racism

At the annual Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) in St. Louis, BVM President Teri Hadro (l.) and the BVM Leadership team gathered with the LCWR Assembly on the steps of the Old Court House for a silent, prayerful witness to stand against racism.

"Racism is a sin that spans the globe, is highlighted in the political arena today, and we congregations of women religious acknowledge our own complicity in it," says LaDonna Manternach, BVM. "The 2018 LCWR Assembly pledged to go deeper into the work of creating communion and eradicating this destructive sin that permeates our society."



St. Agathas Celebrates 125 Years

BVM Sisters celebrated St. Agathas 125 Anniversary. A Chicago school BVMs opened in 1895, more than 200 sisters taught at St. Agatha's until 1981.

Just a *Pinch*

Want to read more about the BVM Sisters?
Visit: www.bvmsisters.org/news.

BVMs Promote Awareness of Human Trafficking

BVMs Elizabeth Avalos and Marilyn (Claudia Mary) Wilson work with Catholic Network to End Human Trafficking (CNEHT) of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County for the past six years educating in parishes, schools and community groups, and advocating for survivors. CNEHT and the International Justice Mission joined efforts to present programs on human trafficking following Masses in five parishes as a pilot program on Freedom Sunday, May 6, 2018.

Read more: www.bvmsisters.org/HTAwareness2018



Over 100 Years of Service

A special Mass was celebrated in August to honor the last two BVMs to serve in the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa—Mary Rosemunda Besch, Clarenita Froehlich—and all the BVMs who have served in the diocese for over a century.



BVMs (first row, l. to r.) Mary Rosemunda Besch and Clarenita Froehlich are joined by (second row, l. to r.) BVMs Teri Hadro, Carolyn (Lester) Farrell, Donard Collins, Carol Marie (Joseph Louis) Baum, and Father Hemann.

BVMs Honored



In September, **Mary Elizabeth (Andrew) Galt, BVM** received the Evangelii Gaudium Award from St. John's Seminary in Los Angeles for her impact on the formation and continuing education of priests. Mary Elizabeth has ministered in the archdiocese since 1964 as a teacher, principal, district coordinator, elementary supervisor, and associate superintendent. She is currently serving as chancellor and senior director of pastoral services for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



Read more:
www.bvmsisters.org/Winsor-Honored-18

Lynn Winsor, BVM was honored by the Arizona Interscholastic Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Lynn has coached Xavier's championship golf team since 1974. This summer, she was inducted into the Arizona Athletic Hall of Fame.

As Opponents of the Death Penalty, BVMs Welcome Pope Francis' Catechism Revision

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary adopted a congregational stance against capital punishment in 2001. We are grateful for Pope Francis' recent unqualified statement and sincerely pray that the hearts and minds of those not in agreement across the U.S. and world will become open to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Read the complete statement:
www.bvmsisters.org/death-penalty

Parents and Children Call for Immigration Reform at Senate Office Building

In response to the federal government missing its deadline to reunite immigrant children separated from their families; parents, children, and friends filled the atrium of the Hart Building in Washington, D.C., to call for the reunification of families. Marge Clark, BVM was present to witness the experience:

"Five children ages six to fourteen spoke to their need to be with their families, and grieving for the children who have been separated from parents. The children chanted: 'I am a child.' Parents responded: 'families belong together.' They sang songs, held up signs, drew pictures with written notes on the back and delivered them to the senators. Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) visited with the families. The Capitol Police were wonderful, and enjoyed the children . . . It was a delightful, positive action."



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 core values. With a goal of \$10,000, staff and sisters at Mount Carmel have come together to be "Champions for Change" collecting

loose change and donations—raising more than \$7,000 in 10 days. The WU team also launched other fundraising efforts bringing the total to more than \$15,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. Watch the excitement on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/bvmsisters/videos.



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Set of '58 Celebrates its Roots

"In the Tree of Life our roots are forever entwined," reads a plaque next to an oak tree planted by the BVM set of 1958. As set member Judy (Eugene Mary) Callahan, BVM reflects, this tree's roots grew as deep as our faith and friendships over these past 60 years. "As the tree grows, so are we," she says. "It's lost a few branches here and there . . . but it's still growing and it has strong roots."

Set members feel it's significant that oak trees don't tend to actively produce acorns until they're 50 years old, because even when approaching "what might be considered old," they can still be productive. Last June, current and former BVMs who entered the congregation together in 1958 gathered in celebration at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

Join us in celebrating the roots they have each planted over their 60 years of ministry.



Current and former members of the set of '58 gather around the oak tree they planted together nearly 60 years ago.

Gathered are (first row, l. to r.) BVMs Betty (Florence Therese) Bowen, Judy (Eugene) Callahan; former BVM Judy Moberly Mayotte; and BVMs Roberta (Caritas) White, and Angele Lutgen; (second row, l. to r.) BVMs Diane (Malia) Rapozo, Ann (Thomas) DeNicolò; Associate Mary Maas; former BVMs Cathy Giacomini Giovando, Rita Strand Rose; BVMs Monica (Alvin) Seelman, Mary (Patricia) Nolan; Associate Joan Leland Spittler; BVMs Janet Desmond, Katherine E. Heffernan, Joan M. (Rosaria) Condon, Virginia (Therese) Crilly; former BVM Kathy Redpath Beal; and BVM Helen E. (Frances Helen) Gourlay.

Not pictured are BVMs: Leticia Marie (St. Noel) Close, Cora Keegan, and Patricia (Herbert Mary) Thalhuber.