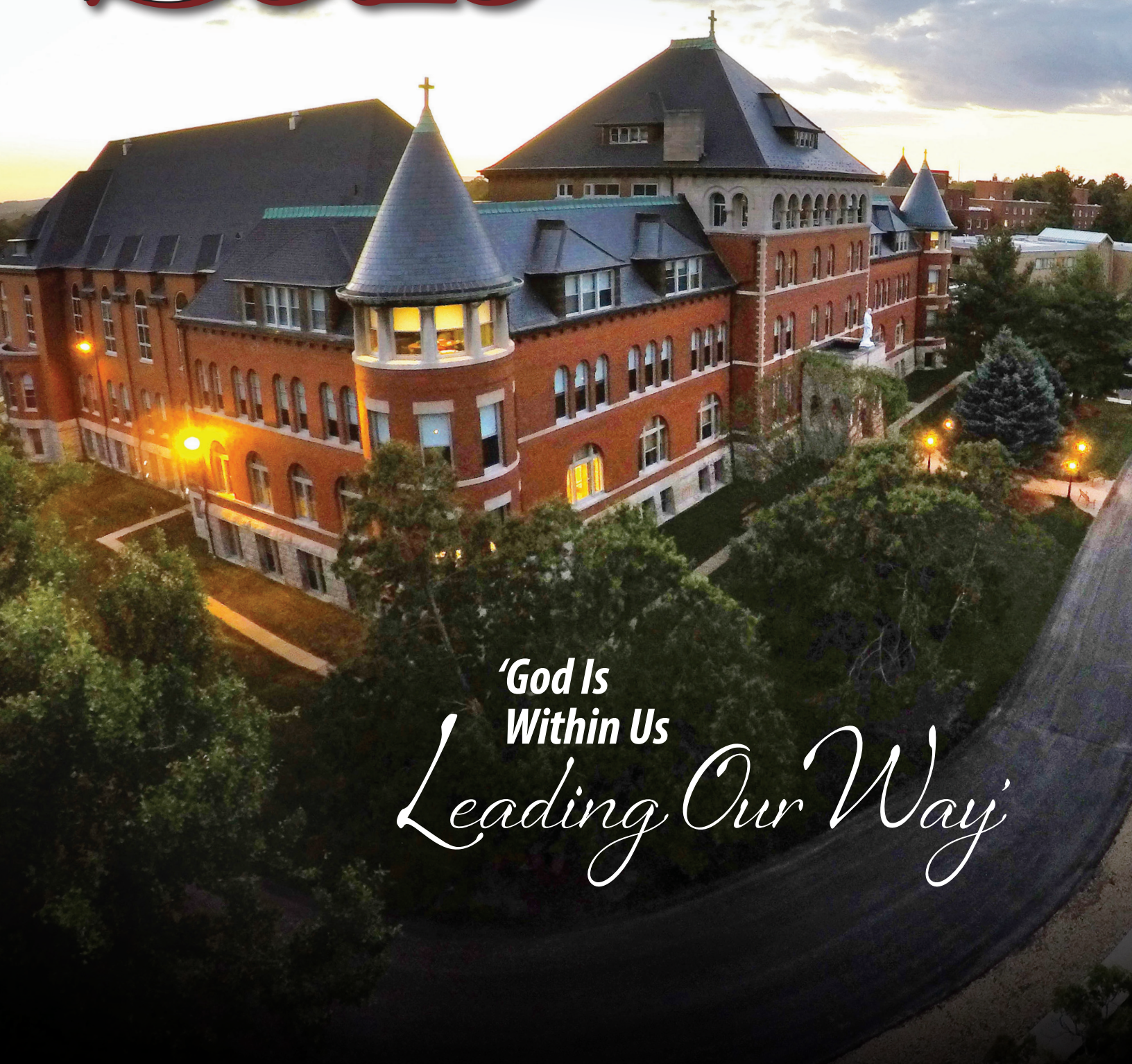


Salt



**'God Is
Within Us
Leading Our Way'**



SEASONing

A Message from BVM Leadership

"A knowledge that springs from love will implicate us in the web of life; it will wrap the knower and the known in compassion, in a bond of awesome responsibility as well as transforming joy; it will call us to involvement, mutuality, accountability."

—Parker J. Palmer, *To Know as We Are Known*

In each season of the year, there is an invitation to be ready to change. With this winter's particularly icy hold on the Midwest, it was a deep relief to witness the re-emergence of green after so many months of dormancy and cold. The transformation was most welcome. The birds seemed chirpier, the greening of the hills seemed brighter, and the



In Rome, BVM President Teri Hadro (second row, center) joins women religious leaders at the triennial meeting of International Union Superiors General (UISG) last May.

"Leaders of 850 women's congregations across the globe pondered, conversed, and prayed together as they considered how to put flesh on the conference theme 'Sowers of Prophetic Hope.' Worldwide, women religious address issues of forced migration, human trafficking, climate change, poverty, and respect for persons of all cultures and religions. Our work sows seeds of hope. A major goal of the meeting was to identify and commit to concerted action with the goal of increasing the impact of individual congregations' efforts."

—Teri Hadro, BVM

blossoms appeared fuller than in any previous spring. These signs of life are the graces of an Iowa spring season, and they inspire feelings of joy, awe, and gratitude.

Sisters, associates, and staff gathered together in April to celebrate a Ritual of Gratitude for our Mount Carmel property before construction of the new senior living community begins. We are grateful for the many relationships we have had with those who have lived and worked with us here for 130 years. It reminded us that we are engaged in God's expansive web of life. We are greatly blessed and grateful.

John Piper says, "Grace comes into action as the emptiness of one is filled up by the fullness of the other." Being mindful that God's love fills us over and over again is a spiritual practice. How often during the day are we aware of God's grace? How often do we make an effort to mention our gratitude? When we take notice of grace in our lives, gratitude spills out.

As we anticipate the transformation of our beloved home to include senior residents from all over the region, we are aware of and grateful for the deep sense of community that exists at Mount Carmel. We hope and pray that the richness of our lives together as BVM Sisters may spill over into the lives of all who will reside at Mount Carmel.

In this edition of *Salt*, you will read about the efforts of various people and communities to carry on the BVM mission. Grace abounds when caring moments connect us to God's people and creation. Parker Palmer says that being part of the web of life calls us to "involvement, mutuality, and accountability." People and communities are changed when they are sharing their lives and resources with others. God's grace surrounds us.

As one of our BVM songs reminds us, "Let us be grateful! Celebrate this day; God is within us leading our way" (BVMs Eliza Kenney and Mary Alma [Robert Emmett] Sullivan). May each season of your life be a reminder of God's grace surrounding you.

Teri 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 though their core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice.

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

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Calendar of Events

August 2019

13–16 LCWR National Assembly
Scottsdale, Ariz.

September

- 8 Diamond Jubilee Celebration
Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa
- 22 Immaculata Alumnae/Faculty Mass
and Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 25 Our Lady of Peace HS 1959 60th
Class Reunion, St. Paul, Minn.
- 27 Xavier High School Class of 1969
Reunion, Chesterfield, Mo.

October

- 20 St. Mary HS Alumnae All Class
Memorial Mass, Stickney, Ill.
- 27 Benefactor Mass, Felician Center
Chicago

November

- 3 Benefactor Mass, Mount Carmel
Dubuque, Iowa

December

- 3 Giving Tuesday

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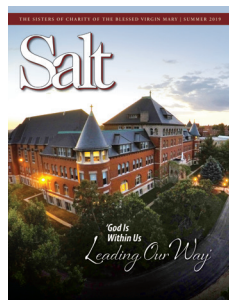
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On the cover: Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, has been the spiritual home of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary since 1889. For 130 years, this small piece of earth has seen dramatic changes as varied as the ministries of the hundreds of sisters who entered religious life here. Soon this landscape will be transformed again. In this issue of **Salt**, read the many ways God continues to lead us into the future to continue the work of our Foundress Mary Frances Clarke "to strive to seek out and attend to those in need whatever this may require of us" (BVM **Constitutions** 15).



Fight Against Human Trafficking Expands

by Mira Mosle, BVM



1. In January, BVMs, associates, and other members of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery recognize a hotel for its efforts to end human trafficking.

2. At Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, Coalition members—Mary Lechtenberg, OSF (l.), and BVMs Joyce Cox, Eileen Healy (second from r.), and Mira Mosle (r.)—promote an anti-human trafficking bill with Iowa State Representatives Chuck Eisenhart and Lindsay James.

3. BVM Marilyn Wilson (l.), Rosemary Everette, SNJM, and BVM Elizabeth Avalos help coordinate film screenings of the human trafficking documentary “I Am Still Here” to raise awareness in southern California. At the screenings they also met Mischia Marcus, writer/director (r.).

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society . . . it is a crime against humanity.”

—Pope Francis

What are the top three criminal “industries” in the world?

If you responded drugs, weapons, and human trafficking,¹ you’ve been paying attention to the enormous growth in this global crime of human slavery: one that now tops \$150 billion a year and affects more than 40 million people globally.² It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the world.¹

As the Internet has exponentially expanded access to prospective “customers” for traffickers, and as the worldwide tide of refugees fleeing violence and famine has left millions vulnerable to both labor and sex slavery, so too have the efforts to increase and diversify local actions to increase prevention of this epidemic and help survivors. These actions are collaborative, with networks spanning cities, states, and nations.

Here in the Midwest, Iowa finds itself at the crossroads of some of the country’s most traveled interstate highways: I-80 bisects the state east to west, and I-35, north to south. They intersect in Des Moines. Along the state’s western border, I-29 runs north to south, and on to Kansas City. US 61 goes north from I-80, through Dubuque.

Add the recent data that between 70-75% of sex trafficking occurs in hotels and motels across the country,³ and that “purchasers” will travel 1.5 hours to reach their destination,⁴ the conclusion is clear: lodging facilities need to be a focus of education and prevention.

And that is happening! Thanks to an effort begun two years ago by Catholic

sisters in Omaha, and then expanding to other groups and individuals, training of hotel and motel staff has gradually moved into Iowa. According to the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, the workers at more than 100 facilities have been trained to date.

Several BVMs and associates in the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery⁵ are among those who have been trained to assist the staff of Dubuque area hotels and motels to realize, recognize, and respond appropriately when they see signs of sex trafficking.

“Taking what we’ve learned over the past years to the hospitality industry is truly taking the work to the front lines of human trafficking,” says BVM Associate Suzie Wright, who led the first local effort. “I discovered the critical importance of giving employees the tools needed to be effective first responders,” says BVM Joyce M. (Petrine) Cox, who assisted her.

At the conclusion of training at the largest lodging in the city, the Coalition held a news conference and recognized Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark General Manager Steve Geisz. He notes, “We have an obligation . . . to protect our guests, but also to protect our employees.” He adds, “You could tell the change in the staff. They were just as alarmed as I was that this could be happening on property in Dubuque.”

A light went on for State Representative Chuck Eisenhart as he listened. Why couldn’t state funds used for government events at hotels and motels across Iowa be tied to facilities which have completed the training? He teamed with Representative Lindsay James to co-file such a bill in the Iowa House of Representatives.

Human Trafficking continued on p. 6.



Human Hands Focus



4. During a benefit 5K “Color Run” at the Dubuque Regional Airport, BVM Diane Rapozo informs participants of the realities of human trafficking.



BVMs Rosalie(Victor Ann) Glanz (seated, l.), Joanna Rettenmeier, Donard Collins, Kitty (Roselani) Ornellas; Irene Lukefahr (standing, l.), Louise (Laurina) Levandowski, and Janine Wolff (not pictured) gather frequently to knit prayer shawls for human trafficking survivors.

Warmly Enfolding Survivors

When Louise Levandowski, BVM learned from a film of the struggles women face after escaping sex trafficking, she prayed about what she might do. Her skill with crochet hooks and knitting needles led her to a unique response: creating soft, colorful prayer shawls for survivors. “I felt these would let the women know we’re with them in their recovery,” she says.

Louise proposed her idea to other BVMs at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, skilled in needlecraft, and a half-dozen began to meet regularly, weaving prayer into each shawl. In the past two years, working alone and together, they have stitched 50 shawls and sent them with blessings to safe houses in Iowa where survivors are in the process of healing and rebuilding their lives.



While in Des Moines, Iowa, lobbying for stronger anti-trafficking measures, BVMs Carol Cook (l.), Nancy McCarthy, and Associate Suzie Wright present a prayer shawl to Governor Kim Reynolds in honor of her support of anti-trafficking efforts.

Support came from a number of organizations, but the bill did not make it out of committee. Work will continue until next session when HF 455 may be linked with other strategies to make Iowa a trafficking-free zone, safe for all individuals and families.

“Trafficking is not in someone else’s neighborhood. It is here,” notes BVM leadership in its statement of support for the bill. “The BVM Sisters are committed to being educated about this crime and educating others to recognize it, too.”

Meanwhile, the local training of hotel and motel staffs will continue. BVMs Eileen (Patrick Ellen) Healy, Kate (St. Wilma) Keating, Dorothy Gaffney, and Mary Jean (St. Christopher) Ferry are among the “behind the scenes” team, collating notebooks of materials and pre- and post-assessments.

In the coming months, Coalition members will also consider ways to engage high school students in education about trafficking and to study ways of strengthening the city’s ordinance on massage parlors.

Whether it’s BVM Diane (Malia) Rapozo providing information at a 5K run hosted by the University of Dubuque, BVM Irene Lukefahr assisting at a mental health fair, or all Coalition members—nearly two dozen women and men—staffing a booth at the Dubuque County Fair, BVMs and associates continue to use their talents and creativity to free persons from these chains that cruelly bind and dehumanize.

About the Author: Mira Mosle, BVM is co-chair of the Dubuque, Iowa, Hotel and Motel Project of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery.

¹ “Human Trafficking Fact Sheet.” Homeland Security Digital Library. 2004. Accessed May 16, 2019. <https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=23329>.

² “The Facts.” Polaris. 2018. Accessed May 16, 2019. <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/facts>.

³ “Hotels.” Polaris. Accessed May 16, 2019. <https://polarisproject.org/initiatives/hotels>.

⁴ Statement based on data from the Creighton University Human Trafficking Initiative with calculation by Stephen Patrick O’Meara, former federal prosecutor, Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force.

⁵ Founded five years ago by area religious communities, including the BVMs, and now with an expanded membership, the Coalition has engaged in education and advocacy since its beginning.



Freedom and the Common Good:

Taking Care of Self, One Another, and Place

In their 2018 Team Talk, “Freedom and the Common Good,” BVM leadership asked sisters and associates to consider the following questions:

What do we, who have vowed to live in and for the common good, have to say about taking care of ourselves, one another, and the place we might find ourselves in today?

What does this have to do with our core value of freedom which calls us to grow into the best version of ourselves?

This is the second of three reflections that explores these questions.

An Open Heart Cares for Others

by Amy L. Golm, BVM



Personal experience invites me to rephrase the BVM mission statement from “being freed to helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love” to “being *cared for to care for others* in God’s steadfast love.” I have been freed to move from “me” to “we” through the care of others. The care I have received has made me a better chaplain, a minister to those who are coping with serious illness.

When I first completed chaplain training, called clinical pastoral education, I was in my early thirties. I was in good health and had not yet experienced the loss of anyone close to me. Though I could relate to those in my care from a place of genuine concern—motivated by the command of the gospel to love my neighbors—I couldn’t fully enter into their experience because I hadn’t been vulnerable.

That all changed on Sept. 4, 2008. It was as if God said to me, “You have the head knowledge to be a minister, now you need the heart.” At that time, I was serving in campus ministry at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. I had just completed my Master of Divinity degree, and I was transitioning from a part-time role to that of a director. My energy was focused on advancing

my career. It was a time of developing me so that I could serve others well.

A week into the school year, I took a tumble down the stairs breaking both ankles. The resulting surgery and lengthy rehab necessitated my dependency on others; I literally could not shower or get to the bathroom without help.

Though completely dependent, I had no needs; care was provided by the BVM congregation at Mount Carmel in Dubuque. As I convalesced, I was engulfed with care from BVMs, staff, friends, colleagues, students, and family. So many kindnesses were extended to me: an aide brought me homegrown tomatoes, university colleagues sent cards and gifts, physical therapists restored my fractured limbs.

With each of these simple gestures, my heart opened up experiencing a depth of care that I had never known. All of this reflected the face of God. Recalling that time of being loved so thoroughly and so undeservedly still brings me to tears.

The experience of such abundant love has freed me to minister from an open heart. Having direct experience of the vulnerability of dependence, I can truly enter the experience of people who are seriously ill.

I invite you to consider how has your life experience opened your heart to care for others? How do you demonstrate that care?

About the Author: Amy L. Golm, BVM is a palliative care and hospice chaplain with Agnesian HealthCare, a member of SSM Health in Fond du Lac, Wis.

'A Mile in Her Shoes'

by Joellen McCarthy, BVM

"I come all the way from the West Side of Chicago to come here because Sarah's has a staff that really cares and is invested in the well-being of its visitors. I've been to a couple of different places, and I feel safe at Sarah's."

—Resident

The winter of 2019 re-introduced the term "polar vortex" into the vocabulary of many people living in the Midwest, with Chicago earning the title "Chiberia." The term can spawn explorations to determine its meaning or debates as to whether or not climate change causes this phenomenon. However, for homeless persons striving to survive on the streets of Chicago, "polar vortex" is not an intellectual exercise. It heightens the desperate need for shelter.

With a mission of serving women who are homeless or in need of a safe space, Sarah's Circle began in 1979 in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. In every season, with or without "Chiberia," Sarah's Circle has provided support for thousands of women.

Since the initial days of Sarah's Circle, BVMs have connected to the work of this center. Chris Hannibal, a former BVM, was the first paid director; Rita (Borgia) Benz, BVM served on the board; Carol (Conrad Ann) Cook, BVM served as program director; Margaret (Daniel Anne) McGinn, BVM volunteered for several decades



In 1993, BVM Rita Benz walks a mile in the shoes of homeless women during the first Winter Walk. The BVMs have participated in the walk ever since.

responding to the multiple needs connected with the Center; and BVM Ministry Partnership Grants have been awarded to Sarah's on multiple occasions.

In 1993 the Sarah Circle Winter Walk, "A Mile in Her Shoes," began to raise funds and to broaden public awareness of homeless women. The date for the walk is set during the winter months to provide a hint of the challenge that women who are homeless face in these bitter months.

Every year since that initial walk in which Rita and Carol participated, BVMs have supported the walk. Sisters who live in the Chicago area and are able to join

the walk; many BVMs and their friends contribute financially.

When asked why BVMs support the Winter Walk, Mary (Patricia Mary) Nolan, BVM shares, "I believe that 'where one BVM is, we are all there,' so I can help from a distance. And, I believe women helping women who are dealing with hardship and homelessness need to know we women care. I can't imagine what it would feel like to be homeless."

Carol further comments, "The BVM core values are reflected in this walk, especially freedom. The programs at Sarah's provide ways that women can choose to break away from problems that

keep them from being free, from reaching their potential."

Collaborating with Sarah's Circle is a natural fit for BVMs. The word "circle" in the organization's name identifies the style of operation as relational, participative, collaborative, and inclusive—a model consistent with BVM values. The BVM mission continues vibrantly in the work of Sarah's Circle, providing one more opportunity to accompany women and walk a mile in their shoes.

About the Author: Joellen McCarthy, BVM is recently retired from the 8th Day Center for Justice and currently lives in Chicago.

Just a *Pinch*

Uptown Women's Center was renamed Sarah's Circle shortly after opening its doors in 1979. **But who is Sarah?** Staff at the center have two stories. In one, "Sarah" is attributed to the name of a cat who lived at the shelter. In another, the name is based on a children's song called "We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle" sung to the tune of "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder."



"Team BVM"—BVMs Joellen McCarthy (l.), Mary Ellen (Davidette) Meckley, Colleen (Rose Maureen) McGinnity, and Gwen (Leontia) Farry—brave the frigid Chicago temperatures for the 27th Sarah's Circle Winter Walk. The team raised more than \$2,300 to support homeless women and children.

BVMs and Associates: The Blessings of Service

by Vicki Smurlo, BVM

In southern California, BVMs and

associates have taken to doing “service for service.” As veterans and current military have served the U.S., BVMs and associates have been making commitments to provide services in return.

One way they give back is through Wellness Works in Glendale. The organization has multiple services available to veterans and their families, ranging from therapy to acupuncture, support groups, and more.

Wellness Works is a community where veterans come to help restore hope and a sense of wholeness of body and soul for themselves and their families. As Dean, an Air Force veteran describes, “The vets come here because it’s special. When I come now, this is home.”

BVMs have been connected to

Wellness Works since 1984. Marian (William Marie) Hurley, BVM (now deceased) is recognized as honorary co-foundress of this “home” for veterans. She devoted hours over the years providing hand massages and a listening heart to the vets.

Showing ‘Goodwill and Appreciation’

One way BVMs and associates are able to engage in community service at the center is to serve a meal at one of the monthly barbeques held in the Wellness Works’ backyard.

On St. Patrick’s Day, BVMs and associates gathered mid-morning to begin setting up tables and decorations for a day that turned out to be beyond wonderful. True to the theme of the holiday, green abounded in decorations as well as attire.

BVM Associate Clara Schwartz, whose teen grandsons volunteered with

her, enjoys “seeing many generations coming together to give, share, and meet many individuals, each with his or her own story.”

At the barbeque, a feeling of social support instantly became obvious as each veteran engaged in the telling of his or her story, or those of their family members, who served in the military—stories like bringing home POWs, or seeing someone burn, or being an Air Force bomber in Vietnam.

Many veterans suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is addressed in the Wellness Works programs, and the resulting “friendships”—more than “comradery” as Dean pointed out—were evident throughout the conversations and reunions at this gathering.

As Marguerite (John) Murphy, BVM expresses, “Today showed goodwill and



Marguerite Murphy, BVM assists veteran Robert Hughart to his table during Wellness Works’ St. Patrick’s Day barbeque.



Veteran Steven Moss joins Associates Bill and Francine Lee selling raffle tickets.



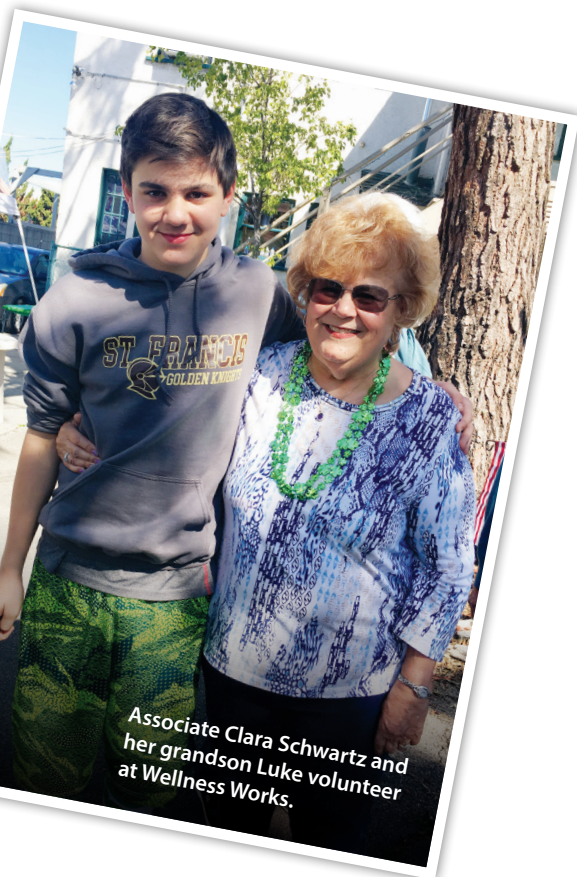
Associate discerner, Dolores Bromberek takes a meal order from veteran Dean Strickler.

appreciation, but we need to be grateful for Wellness Works being here 365 days a year.”

Following the meal, Shirley and Gil Federico, who are discerning BVM association, share, “It was a beautiful day. The company here was friendly and knowledgeable, and we were happy to see new faces this year,” some of whom came from distances of more than an hour away.

To serve and be served. The military has served, and we as BVMs, associates, and friends are called to serve, to provide the justice of inclusivity. And the rewards of blessing others? Being blessed by those we serve.

About the author: After a 17-year ministry of hospice social work, Vicki Smurlo, BVM now lives in retirement at Holy Redeemer Convent in Montrose, Calif. She continues to work with BVM associates and those discerning becoming associates.



Associate Clara Schwartz and her grandson Luke volunteer at Wellness Works.



During a Not On Our Watch ceremony, Associate Teri Piña prays for veterans who have died by suicide.

Sharing Awareness

Not on Our Watch is another Wellness Works event that BVMs and associates have assisted this year by helping set up chairs, signs, and booths in a park in Glendale. This annual three-day event in the fall is designed to attract the public's attention to the devastating statistic that 22 suicides occur per day among former and current military members. BVMs and associates, feel it is their calling to help with education about this unfortunate reality.

Serving Active Service Members

First introduced by Associate Clara Schwartz, southern California BVMs and associates have made a commitment to help active military through **Operation Gratitude**. BVMs, associates, and friends join with hundreds to pack boxes, write letters, stuff Teddy bears (for children of those serving), fill emergency bags, and more. Associate Lia Avila also gives her time during many weekday mornings.



Associates Cheryl Hannah, Carol Walsh, Lia Avila, and BVM Vicki Smurlo fill emergency bags for active service members through Operation Gratitude.

BVM Sisters Share Their 'Dear Carmel Home'

by Angie Connolly and Jon Aguilar

Along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, Mount Carmel

has been in the care of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Dubuque, Iowa, since 1889. This small piece of earth was nurtured, shaped, and changed by many generations before the BVM Sisters: from glaciers and the river to prairie grass and mighty oaks to animals and more, and at its present state, their sacred home. For many, it was where young women climbed the steps of the Motherhouse to enter religious life, and now, where many sisters are coming home to continue their ministry in retirement.

And once again, this small piece of Earth will be nurtured, shaped, and changed.

A Plan for the Future

This summer the BVM Sisters—in a joint venture with Presbyterian Homes & Services (PHS), a non-profit senior housing corporation based in St. Paul, Minn.—will break ground to build a new state-of-the-art, earth-friendly senior living community on the Mount Carmel campus.

The construction plans come after years of careful consideration by the congregation as a response to the aging of the BVM community.

As the number of sisters diminishes, President Teri Hadro, BVM shares, “we



wish to open our campus for residence by women and men from the greater Dubuque area.” Teri continues, “Our collaboration with PHS creates an opportunity to continue our care for our sisters, share our beautiful campus, and provide quality senior residential and healthcare services.”

The new center will include 60 long-term care center suites, 42 assisted living apartments, and 20 memory care apartments. The Motherhouse will become the “town center,” housing amenities for residents and neighbors to enjoy; the Motherhouse Chapel will continue as the place for liturgical activities for the BVMs.

Renovated spaces will provide for congregational offices, a BVM heritage room, and ministerial outreach, including the Roberta Kuhn Center, which provides education and leisure opportunities for nearly 600 seniors from the greater Dubuque area.

Teri explains, collaboration with

PHS is a natural choice because their mission aligns with that of the BVMs: “to honor God by enriching the lives and touching the hearts of older adults.” PHS, which has worked with other women religious congregations, operates 47 senior communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

The Mount Carmel campus currently provides housing and care for 150 BVMs and has more than 250 employees. Following the transition, staffing and management responsibilities will transfer to PHS allowing the congregation to continue to focus on BVM life and mission.

“We are making every effort,” says Teri, “to retain our current employees

whose wonderful care for BVMs through the years has ensured quality healthcare, an abundance of opportunities for spiritual, mental and psychological growth, and lots of choices for social interaction and service to others.”

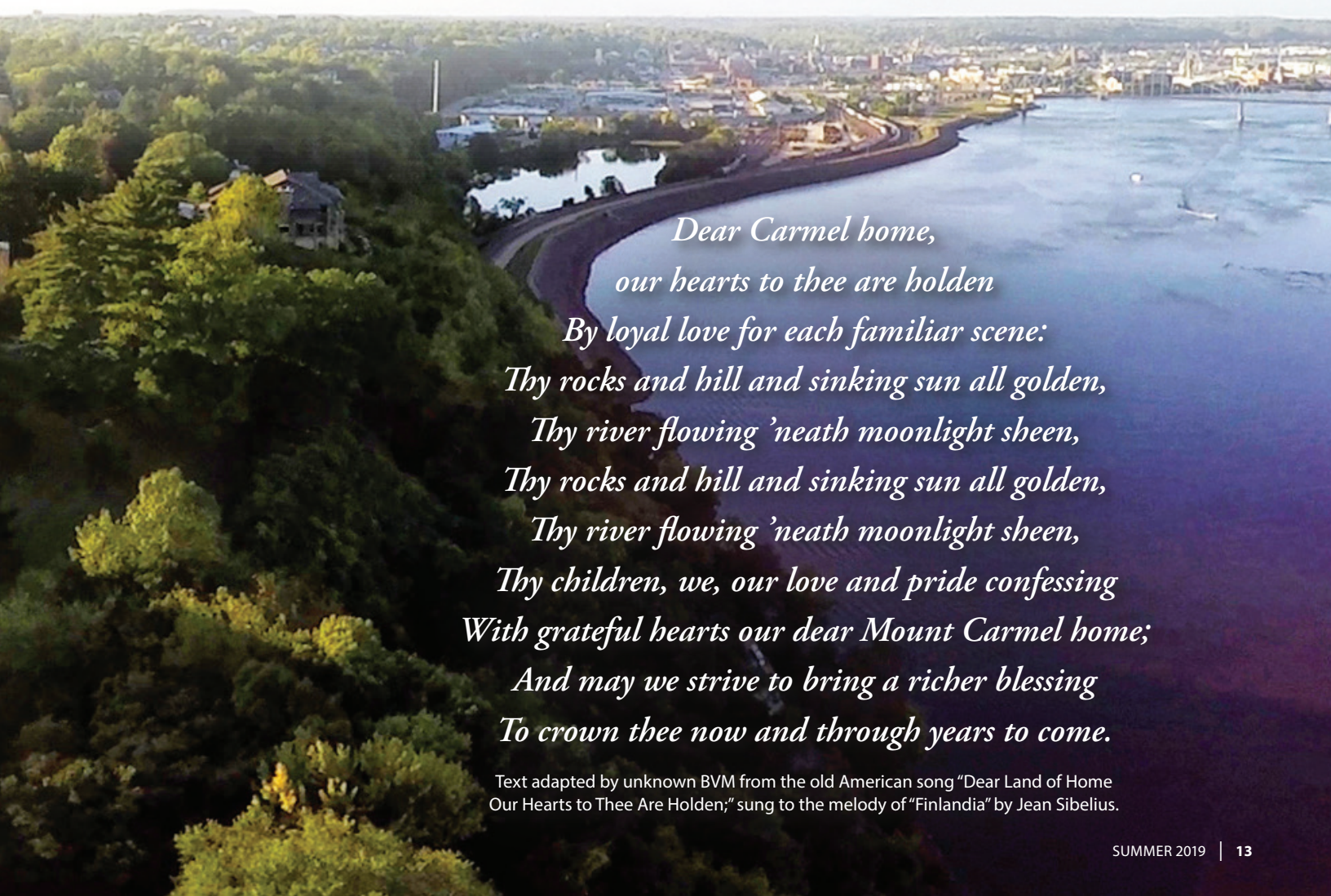
After the transfer of sisters to the new building, the existing structures of Marian Hall, Caritas Center, and BVM Center will be deconstructed to make way for an additional 115 independent living apartments on the north side of the Motherhouse.

“We’re a happy, joyful, spiritual group of people. We’re accepting it as a call from God. Something else is coming.

God has God’s plans, and we’re accepting that.”

—Helen Walkerstorfer, BVM

Dear Carmel Home continued on p. 14.



*Dear Carmel home,
our hearts to thee are holden
By loyal love for each familiar scene:
Thy rocks and hill and sinking sun all golden,
Thy river flowing 'neath moonlight sheen,
Thy rocks and hill and sinking sun all golden,
Thy river flowing 'neath moonlight sheen,
Thy children, we, our love and pride confessing
With grateful hearts our dear Mount Carmel home;
And may we strive to bring a richer blessing
To crown thee now and through years to come.*

Text adapted by unknown BVM from the old American song “Dear Land of Home Our Hearts to Thee Are Holden,” sung to the melody of “Finlandia” by Jean Sibelius.

Ritual of Gratitude

Dear Carmel Home continued from p. 13.

BVMs, Associates, and Employees: Together on the Journey

As BVM leadership and PHS administrators finalize plans to make way for the new senior living community, sisters, associates and employees gathered for a Ritual of Gratitude.

“Let us be grateful! Celebrate this day; God is within us leading our way.” This song by BVMs Mary Alma (Robert Emmett) Sullivan and Eliza Kenney, sung as a response to the litany of gratitude, provided the direction of the ritual to give thanks for the past, celebrate our solidarity today, and trust God’s leading into our future.

Welcoming all to the ritual, BVM Vice President Lou Anglin shares, “We are grateful for all that we have considered to be ours for 130 years, that which we have lovingly called ‘Our Dear Carmel Home.’” Lou continues, “This land tells a story that holds the stories of thousands of lives in our time—including those who lived here and those who worked here.”

The sharing of prayer, music, and photos of Mount Carmel through the years reminded all present that, as Bertha (Dolorose) Fox, BVM reads, “. . . we are together supporting one another on this journey as Mary Frances Clarke expressed so well, ‘I have no fears as long as you are working unitedly that God will aid as in the past.’”

Mount Carmel Administrator Sarah Rentz welcomes the developments. To her, “change is good.” During the event, she heard BVMs share the many different phases of the property throughout history—the sisters responding to each phase with, “And it was good.”

“What we do as staff is good,” says Sarah. “We’ll do it differently, and we’ll do it in buildings that look different, and that’s okay.”

During the ritual the chapel erupted into an excited buzz as participants took time to share their own stories of surviving change, the wisdom gleaned from those experiences, and their feelings about the changes at Mount Carmel.

Employee Patty DeVries, coordinator of environmental services, felt the ritual made employees feel

Sisters, associates, and employees gather for a Ritual of Gratitude at Mount Carmel to show appreciation for the land which has been in the Sisters’ care since 1889. Photos, music, and props were used to represent air, earth, water, and fire—elements that have given us energy, life, good health, and prosperity. Pictured above (top to bottom) are Carol Marie (Joseph Louis) Baum, BVM; Andrea Pierce; Vivian C. (Lauren) Wilson, BVM; and Mike Johnson.



more connected to their “home away from home.”

Patty has worked with the BVMs for 40 years, so seeing photos of sisters and employees from years ago reminded her of her BVM friends and the many ways Mount Carmel has changed over her time. “I’m very close to the sisters,” says Patty. “I’m excited for them.”

As the ritual came to a conclusion all left with the words of Mother Clarke etched in their hearts as Mary (Mercedie) McCauley reads: “None but our dear Lord knows what, or how, my heart feels for you. I send my love to each of you.”

The solidarity with Mother Clarke and with one another will surely lead all who live and work at Mount Carmel through these next years with trust, gratitude, affection, and joy!

Area Residents Welcome Opportunity

Dubuque area residents have also expressed their excitement about the new senior living community and the BVMs sharing their home with area residents.

Rev. Msgr. Thomas E. Toale of the Archdiocese of Dubuque has witnessed

the kindness of the BVMs firsthand. To him, the Sisters of Charity are doing what they’ve always done.

“Throughout their entire history the BVMs have always responded to the needs of the people that they were with and whom they served,” he says. “This is an extremely important need at this time in the city. It will help many people in many ways.”

Longtime friend and neighbor Jeanne Quann adds that there are currently no senior living options for people on her side of town. “This is making a home for people,” she says. “Do the sisters at Mount Carmel have to start doing this? Do they have to take in people? No, they don’t have to, but it’s another extension of their love.”

It’s an extension of the BVMs’ “Dear Carmel Home” that is being nurtured, shaped, and changed into something new for others to enjoy.

“All things come at a time they’re needed, and this is a new time for us,” says BVM Vice President LaDonna Manternach, “. . . It’s all for our new mission that we have for this place to welcome others. It’s a new beginning for area seniors, and it’ll be a new beginning for BVMs, too.”



This rendering illustrates the new senior living community that will be located south of the Motherhouse. The plan calls for 60 long-term care center suites, 42 assisted living apartments, and 20 memory care apartments.

Rendering by Pope Architects.

Just a Pinch

Follow us on Facebook to keep informed of the progress of the construction:
[Facebook.com/BVMSisters](https://www.facebook.com/BVMSisters).

Hug a Tree Prayer Circle

In anticipation of the removal of trees to make way for construction, BVMs and associates gather on the grounds of Mount Carmel for a special prayer service.

Roberta Anne (Caritas) White, BVM
describes the event:

“Our prayer service reminded us that from our youth as postulants we have lived with these trees. They have seen us grow from youth, through middle age, to the present. And we have watched these blessed trees also grow over many years. So, we wish to thank our trees for their loving, beautiful presence with us here at Mount Carmel. We also ask their permission and forgiveness in order to cut what is needed to build our new retirement buildings.”





ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

*“ . . . it’s cool
that the BVM Sisters
and their supporters
pitched in to
help us all out.”*

— Student John Foli,
Assumption High School





BVM Endowed Scholarships: 'If you can read this, thank a teacher!'

by Jon Aguilar

For 185 years BVM Sisters have been motivated by their Foundress Mary Frances Clarke's progressive philosophy of education that excluded no one regardless of ability to pay. After moving from Philadelphia to Dubuque in 1833, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary opened nearly 300 elementary and secondary schools and two colleges across the U.S.

"Early on, BVMs identified the pivotal and liberating role learning often plays in the lives of those shackled in poverty," notes Kathryn (John Laurian) Lawlor, BVM, a congregational historian.

BVM schools flourished for more than a century, but as vocations to religious life diminished in the late 1960s, the number of sisters in classrooms declined. Some schools where BVMs taught ceased operation; others were placed in capable lay hands. "Many of the lay women and men who teach at and administer those schools were themselves taught by BVMs, so the academic quality and values lifted up by Mother Clarke and generations of BVMs continued," comments BVM President Teri Hadro.

With an eye toward the future, in 2017 the congregation established an Endowed Scholarship Fund with the help of generous donors and BVM funds for mission. BVMs intend to continue their educational mission by establishing scholarships in one school in each of the 37 dioceses in 22 states where BVMs formerly served. To date, BVM scholarships in 13 dioceses are in place.

"It's an ambitious project," comments Teri. "The projected total cost is nearly \$1.5 million. We see this as an investment in quality education for the future; the returns are incalculable and priceless!"

"The early BVMs and those who followed understood how foundational a good education is for the development of the whole person. Fundamental skills and, as important, solid values and a tangible experience of God's great love provide grounding for success as an adult.

"We hope these endowed scholarships will achieve three things," Teri sums up the project. "We wish to make a Catholic school education possible for economically challenged students, to witness that we continue our mission of quality education with the help of alums and friends, and to leave a lasting footprint in locales where we served."

Endowed Scholarships continued on p. 18.



ed to our core value of education.

BVM Endowed Scholarship Recipients

2017

Central Catholic HS, Butte
(Diocese of Helena, Mont.)

Children of Peace ES, Chicago
(Archdiocese of Chicago)

Assumption HS, Davenport
(Diocese of Davenport, Iowa)

Kapaun-Mount Carmel HS, Wichita
(Diocese of Wichita, Kan.)

2018

Sacred Heart ES, Boulder
(Archdiocese of Denver, Colo.)

St. Elizabeth ES, Clarksdale
(Diocese of Jackson, Miss.)

Cristo Rey HS, Kansas City
(Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.)

Cristo Rey HS, Philadelphia
(Archdiocese of Philadelphia)

Dowling-St. Joseph Academy, Des Moines
(Archdiocese of Des Moines, Iowa)

Alleman HS, Rock Island
(Diocese of Peoria, Ill.)

St. Brigid ES, San Francisco
(Archdiocese of San Francisco)

St. Rose ES, Wilmington
(Diocese of Joliet, Ill.)

St. Thomas the Apostle ES, West Hempstead
(Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.)



On behalf of the BVM congregation, Associates George Waring and Mary Kay Craig present scholarships to four students at Butte Central Catholic Schools in Butte, Mont.

Endowed Scholarships continued from p. 17.

Teri concludes, “The BVM legacy will forever be tied to our core value of education and our mission of assisting others to know God’s love.” The scholarships will honor former BVM teachers and “perpetuate the legacy and core values of all BVMs.”

Creating a Foundation of Support

As principal of St. Rose School in Wilmington, Ill., Linda Bland sees the importance Catholic education holds for her community firsthand.

Though her school has just 81 students, Linda shares that families stand together to volunteer and fundraise for the school, allowing it to be as self-reliant as possible.

“We have such great families,” says Linda. “Grandparents have gone to school here, and they want that for their grandchildren and for their own children.”

Despite this support, Linda does worry about the future. She receives many heart-wrenching calls from parents who share that tuition is a struggle or question if the school is going to stay open.

At one point, the conversations moved her to pray, “God, if you want me to keep doing this job, you’ve got to give me some signs.” Not much later she received a phone call from the BVM Sisters. Her school was selected for a BVM Endowed Scholarship.

“I’m just so grateful,” says Bland. “We’re just a small school with great teachers, great families, and wonderful students. We just hope to keep it up, and every little bit helps us.”

St. Rose was the only school opened by BVMs in the Diocese of Joliet and was selected as a scholarship recipient in honor

of the BVMs who served in the diocese over the years. Nearly 50 BVMs served St. Rose from 1948–2015.

Growing the Next Generation in Faith

At another recipient school (Assumption High School in Davenport, Iowa), freshman John Foli is grateful.

He acknowledges that without the help from a BVM scholarship, he couldn’t attend his Catholic high school.

“Since my parents were born in Africa, they couldn’t really get a decent job when they moved to America,” he shares. “They both work factory jobs, so it’s hard for them to pay tuition.”

A Catholic education means a lot to John because it teaches students like him “how to be good people now and in the future.”

“I think it’s cool that the BVM Sisters and their supporters pitched in to help us all out,” says John. “It really shows how much people care about the younger generation growing in the faith.”

Assumption High School was presented with the scholarship as a way to preserve the long-term BVM presence in the Diocese of Davenport. BVMs served at Immaculate Conception Academy from 1859–1958. The Academy closed when the diocese opened Assumption High School where BVMs taught for many years.

The BVM legacy of education continues with every student recipient of a BVM scholarship. In honor of the thousands of BVM teachers who loved their students, these scholarships continue to do what five women in Dublin set out to do more than 185 years ago: to provide an education to young people in need.

**Quote by Harry S. Truman*

Growing the next generation in faith.



'I am Immaculata'

Alumnae Hold BVM Spirit in Their Hearts

by Jon Aguilar

*"... Year by year you will grow more dear,
And our memories will ever hold,
A treasure store of the days of yore.
And the friends who will ne'er grow old..."*

These were the words BVM Alice

(Alissio) Caulfield heard echoing in the halls of Immaculata High School in Chicago at the end of every school year during her time. Students, "250 strong," would march down the halls singing their school song only to be inevitably met by Alice, dean of students, saying, "You have 30 seconds to return to your classrooms!"

"They'd go scattering, and [unknown to them] I'd laugh hysterically," says Alice with a smile. She served during the last 12 years of the school, and while she had to hide her amusement to maintain order, she remembers the event fondly as an example of the extraordinary bond Immaculata students shared and the discipline, education, and spirit that shaped multiple generations.

When the school closed in 1981, it was "a very hard time" for her and alumnae alike. But the spirit of Immaculata didn't die nor did the bonds of friendships "grow old."

To many alumnae, the school inspired women to have faith, to trust in each other, to believe in themselves, and to be leaders throughout the world.

Remembering the day she heard the news of the closure, BVM Associate Patricia McTeague (class of '57) says, "I felt that something was over, finished. But, as life moved on for me, I realized I carry it in me. I am Immaculata." Three years later, the lessons she gained from BVM teachers led her to co-found a school in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

"You were freer to be yourself," says former BVM Rene Manning Rooney (class of '74). "The strong bonds that developed in high school are still very strong today." To her and her seven sisters, as well as her mother and aunts who graduated from Immaculata, the school is "deep in our veins."

BVM Mary Catherine (St. Ambrose) "Susie" Beckman (class of '50), moderator of the Immaculata Alumnae Association, related that the BVMs who started Immaculata in 1921 "imbued a wonderful spirit that just kept going."

Each year, Immaculata alumnae gather from all over to celebrate life-long friendships. As Alumnae Association President Mary Teister (class of '60) shared, during the gathering, many give back to the BVMs who "made such an impact on our lives." Over 29 years, that amount has totaled more than \$1.3 million to support care for sisters at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

"We were 'MAC' girls and proud of it," adds Patricia. "BVMs were before their time, but the fruit of their labor lives on in us."



During the April Immaculata HS Luncheon, alumnae presented BVM Letitia Marie (St. Noel) "Letty" Close with the Mary Frances Clarke Award. Letty is an alum of Immaculata, class of 1958.

First Row: BVMs Teri Hadro, Mary Jo (Martin Mary) Keane, Mary Lou Wetzell, Mary Gene (Antonilla) Kinney, Letty Close, Josephine M. (Thomas Kathryn) Roche, Ann (Ann Thomas) DeNicolo, Dorothy M. (John Edmund) Dwight, Marguerite (John) Murphy, and Colleen (Rose Maureen) McGinnity.

Second row: BVMs Mary Catherine Beckman, Margaret (St. Cabrini) Geraghty, Mary Frances (Virginia Mary) McLaughlin, Rose Mary (Sebastian) Meyer, and LaDonna Manternach.

In Memoriam



**Mary (Agnes)
Crimmin, BVM**

May 12, 1935–Jan. 20, 2019

Mary taught or ministered in Chicago, Evanston, Grayslake, and Kankakee, Ill.; Dubuque, Iowa; Crystal, Minn.; and Casper, Wyo.

“Mary had many good qualities—hardworking, conscientious, organized, and detail-oriented. However, what made her a ‘good community woman’ was her happy spirit, endearing warmth, good humor, unassuming nature, and willingness to serve. A friend commented, ‘If you met her, you loved her.’” (Eulogy)



**Deanna (Mariel)
Randall, BVM**

July 6, 1937–Feb. 1, 2019

Deanna taught or ministered in Denver; Chicago, Grayslake, and Oak Park, Ill.; Clarksdale and Jackson, Miss.; and Bellerose, N.Y.

“‘Teaching children, especially poor children, has been one of my most meaningful experiences,’ shared Deanna. ‘Children are like sponges. We give initial lessons, give them time, and then back out. Children gain a positive feeling about themselves, develop skills at a young level, and they love to learn. They never lose their love for learning. . . I believe my students taught me far more than I ever learned in school.’” (Eulogy)



Patricia O'Rourke, BVM
Dec. 25, 1928–Feb. 11, 2019

Patricia taught or ministered in Chicago; Cedar Rapids and Clinton, Iowa.

“After moving to Dubuque in 2006, Patricia volunteered in the Treasurer’s office—it was the perfect fit. Patricia was always very businesslike—prompt and meticulous; it was her approach to life . . . [She] was a person of simplicity (quiet, conscientious, pleasant, kind) [and had] a lovely, gracious presence.” (Eulogy)



**Marguerite (Valerian)
Yezek, BVM**

March 15, 1921–Feb. 18, 2019

Marguerite taught or ministered in Mundelein, Rock Island, and Skokie, Ill.; Davenport and Iowa City, Iowa; Saint Paul, Minn.; and Memphis, Tenn.

“‘To be happy, I have always known that I must serve, and I still want to serve as long as I am able.’ . . . Eventually, [Marguerite] found happiness in the quieter state of religious life and purpose in prayer ministry. ‘I have grown in deeper appreciation of my loving God and my BVMs . . . Our explicit trust in Him lightens our own limitations.’” (Eulogy)

We Remember Our Associate

Anastasia McGowan
May 25, 1928–Jan. 19, 2019

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

January 2019–April 2019



Gertrude Ann Sullivan, BVM

Sept. 14, 1929–March 11, 2019

Gertrude Ann taught or ministered in Rancho Santa Margarita and San Diego, Calif.; Dubuque, Iowa; and West Hempstead, N.Y. She was a professor, vice president of academic affairs and academic dean at Clarke University in Dubuque.

“[Gertrude Ann] was very intelligent and a perfectionist who gave her all to the work at hand. However, we remember her best as a quiet, humble and grateful woman . . . she wanted all of us to know she never forgot nor ceased loving us and she will always be grateful to everyone with whom she lived, worked, studied, and taught.” (Eulogy)



Jeroma Day, BVM

Oct. 12, 1938–March 22, 2019

Jeroma taught or ministered in Phoenix; Glendale and Petaluma, Calif.; Chicago; Chariton, Dubuque, Guttenberg, Pleasant Plain, and Richland, Iowa; Hibbing and Winona, Minn.; Rosedale, Miss.; Pine Ridge, S.D.; Huntingdon, Tenn.; Elroy, Wis.; and Casper and Douglas, Wyo.

“Jeroma shared her vocational calling during Catholic Sisters Week celebrations in 2017. She became very emotional when she talked about ‘coming back home’ to Mount Carmel in 2015. She loved living in the Motherhouse and being pastorally present to the residents. Her exuberance for ministering to the elderly, homebound, sick, and dying is undeniable.” (Eulogy)



Anita Therese Hayes, BVM

Nov. 12, 1922–April 14, 2019

Anita taught or ministered in Chicago; Burlington, Davenport, Dubuque, and Tama, Iowa; and Lead, S.D.

“Anita enjoyed life, every drop of it. Whether tapping her toes while watching Irish dancers, singing in the schola, talking with donors as part of the Sisters Development Network, or offering greetings as she walked down the hall, Anita left sunshine and happiness in her wake . . . There is probably no more fitting way to sum up Anita Therese than the way she described every sister she spoke about: ‘She was a darling.’” (Eulogy)



Teresita Poulin, BVM

June 28, 1931–April 16, 2019

Teresita taught or ministered in Montrose, Pasadena, Santa Rosa, and Tujunga, Calif.; Dubuque, Iowa; Kansas City, Mo.; and Memphis, Tenn. She was the founder of the Roberta Kuhn Center at Mount Carmel in Dubuque.

“At the core of Teresita’s being was a desire for justice. To enable her work, she was blessed with many talents—a talent for making things happen, a talent for creativeness in frugality, a talent for helping others discover their talents. . . . ‘My goal as a woman and as a religious,’ she wrote, ‘is to be a catalyst for “miracles” to happen. Making a difference in the lives of those in need is a great motivating force in my life. . . . I feel very blessed to have had these experiences and to be able to share the gift of myself with others.’” (Eulogy)



In Memoriam features excerpts from each sister’s Eulogy, read at her funeral liturgy. Visit our website to read a sister’s entire obituary.
bvmsisters.org/obituaries



BVMs Welcome 16th President of Clarke University

During a visit to Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, BVM Leadership welcomed the 16th president of Clarke University, Dr. Thom Chesney and wife Noelle: LaDonna Manternach, BVM (I.), Alan Stache, Thom and Noelle, BVMs Lou Anglin, and Teri Hadro. The BVM Sisters look forward to working with Dr. Chesney to continue the BVM tradition of education at Clarke.



“My work in China and Kenya has truly touched me deeply. I am so grateful that I can help other sisters develop new approaches to leadership in their congregations and the Catholic Church.”

— Patricia Bombard, BVM

During a ritual tribute, **BVM Patricia Bombard** is honored as “African Mama” by her students in Nairobi. From Kenya to China she’s helping women religious develop leadership skills for their congregations.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2090oLa>.



BVMs Stand Against Racism

Learn how BVMs are joining the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to #StandAgainstRacism: facebook.com/bvmsisters.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

BVMs and associates joined a diversity of women from around the world at the CSW in New York City March 11–22. This year’s primary theme was “social protections, public services, and infrastructure to contribute to gender equality.” The event addressed issues like child marriage, human trafficking, technology, and more.

Group participants included BVMs Roberta Anne (Caritas) White (I.), Mary Frances (Virginia Mary) McLaughlin, and Saskia Karina Alquina Cahautijo; and Associates Kimberly Emery and Kathy Linhardt (not pictured).



CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights and shaping global standards on gender equity.

“Education and organization are the main pillars to empower citizens to exercise their rights and to be aware of active participation.”

— Saskia Karina Alquina Cahuatijo, BVM



Because of You

Because of the generosity of our many donors, the BVM Sisters were able to purchase a bus allowing for more sisters at Mount Carmel to participate in

off campus events. This generosity allowed the BVMs to gift the smaller van to Resources Unite, a Dubuque, Iowa, organization that helps persons with disabilities participate in projects that strengthen the community.

Catholic Sisters Week



Mount Carmel: 'The Heart of BVM'

During National Catholic Sisters Week, students from Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Ill., joined BVMs, employees, and associates at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, to share 'The Heart of BVM' through friendship and vocation stories.



Watch videos:
bvmsisters.org/video-gallery.

St. Louis Catholic Sisters: Stand with Sisters

Stand with Sisters celebrated the myriad ways women religious and their supporters stand up for social justice.



Mary (Patricia Mary) Nolan, BVM participated in the production of the video and Marge Clark, BVM, along with her former NETWORK co-worker Diana Pliego, addressed the topic of basic human needs.

Learn more and watch the video:
stlcatholicisters.org.

Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley: Listen UP!

Created in collaboration with the Azubuike African American Council for the Arts, in Davenport, Iowa, three 60-second videos were produced to focus on the need to listen to each other and confront discrimination. The videos feature vignettes of discriminatory and potentially violent situations sparked by ignorance and fear that are resolved by listening.



Watch videos:
<https://bit.ly/2EFfqn>.



"It was a peaceful, wonderful, refreshing fifteen minutes drifting above the ocean. A once-in-a-lifetime experience because of our ages."

— Donard Collins, BVM

In response to a dare from her nieces and nephews, **Donard Collins, BVM** (above, l., 87) went parasailing for the first time with her sisters Bonnie (89) and Betty (91) in St. Petersburg, Fla.

It's never too late for new adventures.



Mount Carmel Sisters Share BVM Mission



Catherine (Michael Ann) Dominick and other BVM Sisters knitted green hats for young adults (age 11–23) who are advocating to "secure the legal right to a safe climate." BVMs continue to pray daily for the protection of our Mother Earth and the success of these young leaders.

Learn more about Our Children's Trust: ourchildrenstrust.org.



BVM Marjorie (Herberdette) Heidkamp and other BVMs share messages of kindness, one rock at a time. The painted rocks will be left in various public places around the Dubuque Community.

Watch the video: bvmsisters.org/video-gallery.



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BVMSISTERS.ORG

CELEBRATING

185
Years

A LEGACY OF LOVE

ECUADOR 2019 Immersion Trips

Join us for an Immersion Trip to Ecuador!

If you'd like to be immersed in a different culture or share gifts of service with BVMs, associates, and friends, we invite you to join us for one of two trips to Quito, Ecuador.

Volunteer Service

Oct. 24–Nov. 1, 2019

Cultural Discovery

Nov. 1–Nov. 8, 2019

Contact:

Lori Ritz, Office of BVM Life and Mission
lritz@bvmsisters.org | 563-588-2351

Tim and Mary Moothart
timmoot1@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: Sept. 24, 2019



For more information, visit:
bvmsisters.org/ecuador-2019.