

Salt



'TOGETHER
We Make the Path by Walking'



SEASONing

A Message from BVM Leadership

The days are shorter, nights longer, and leaves turning

color and dropping. It appears that another change is coming faster than we might like. At the same time the days are pleasantly cooler and less humid and there is just nothing like the brilliant colors of fall.

The experience of changing seasons is not unlike the changes taking place at Mount Carmel these days. The vista from our windows is altered daily. What appears one day to be loss is often experienced the next day to be the foundation of the new. Change is in the air—and all around us.

In her address to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in August, Patricia Murray, IBVM shared the poem, *TRASNA* (see sidebar). Trasna is a Gaelic word best translated as *the crossing place*. Trasna—a place of choosing—which way to go, how do we want to move forward? The invitations of Trasna seem timely as we find ourselves at a time of great flux in our world. The effects of the climate crisis, political unrest, millions of people fleeing their homeland, economic disparity—all indicate that our choices affect many and are complex. Which way are we to go and how do we want to move forward?

The BVM community met in July to reflect together on how ‘we make the path by walking,’ one step at a time, one day at a time, one choice at a time. It was not a time of decision making but more about how we want to be in this time of great transition. We remember that we try to follow where God is leading us, mindful of the many needs of the world, and intent on sharing what we can in order to respond to those needs.

No one knows for sure what the next step on a journey will bring. We can trust that God continues to give us what we need to take the next steps. We can be grateful for those traveling with us. We hope you enjoy the stories of our BVM experience at the crossroads. May you also remember and be mindful of your own. “This is TRASNA, the crossing place. Choose! This is TRASNA, the crossing place. Come!”

Jeri Haduo, BVM
Lou Anglin, BVM
LeDonna Manternach, BVM

TRASNA

*The pilgrims paused on the ancient stones
In the mountain gap.*

*Behind them stretched the roadway they had travelled.
Ahead, mist hid the track.*

*Unspoken the question hovered:
Why go on? Is life not short enough?*

*Why seek to pierce its mystery?
Why venture further on strange paths, risking all.*

*Surely that is a gamble for fools—or lovers.
Why not return quietly to the known road?*

*Why be a pilgrim still?
A voice they knew called to them, saying:*

*This is Trasna, the crossing place.
Choose! Go back if you must,*

*You will find your way easily by yesterday's fires,
there may be life in the embers yet.*

*If that is not your deep desire,
Stand still. Lay down your load.*

*Take your life firmly in your two hands,
(Gently . . . you are trusted with something precious.)*

*While you search your heart's yearnings:
What am I seeking? What is my quest?*

*When your star rises deep within,
Trust yourself to its leading.*

*You will have the light for first steps.
This is TRASNA, the crossing place.*

*Choose!
This is TRASNA, the crossing place.*

Come!

—Raphael Consedine, PBVM

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.

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Editor: Angie Connolly
communications@bvmsisters.org

Managing Editor/Staff Writer:
Mary Glindinning

Layout and Design: Sandra Dieter

Communications Advisory Committee:
Lou Anglin, BVM; Carolyn (Lester) Farrell, BVM;
Mary Fran (Virginia Mary) McLaughlin, BVM;
Ann Sweeney, and Associates Lori Ritz and
Andy Schroeder

If you would like to receive **Salt**, contact:
development@bvmsisters.org
1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, Iowa 52003
563-585-2854

Calendar of Events

October 2019

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

November 2019

- 2 St. Paul HS Alumnae Reunion
San Francisco
- 3 Benefactor Mass, Mount Carmel
Dubuque, Iowa
- 23 Opening Doors Attitude of Gratitude
Dubuque, Iowa

December 2019

- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 9 Renewal of BVM Vows and
Associate Promises, Mount Carmel
Dubuque, Iowa

March 2020

- 8-13 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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4 Nuns and Nones



8 Transformation



12 Nuevo Mundo: 35 Years

'TOGETHER We Make the Path by Walking'

- 4 **'TOGETHER We Make the Path by Walking'**
by Mira Mosle, BVM
- 7 **Assisting Homeless College Students
Rooted in Vincentian Spirituality**
by Patricia M. Bombard, BVM
- 8 **Mount Carmel Bluffs: Building Community,
Sharing Values**
by Mary Glindinning
- 11 **Freedom and the Common Good: Taking Care of Place**
by Carolyn Farrell, BVM
- 12 **Nuevo Mundo: Something
Different in an Unexpected Place**
by Luann Brown, BVM
- 14 **Donor Profile: Passion Creates, Sustains Ecuador School**
by Kathy Conway, BVM
- 15 **Photo Cards Fight Hunger**
by Pat Nolan, BVM
- 16 **Sisters Respond to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor**
by Teri Hadro, BVM
- 17 **A Future Free from Gun Violence**
by Associate Lori Ritz
- 18 **Teaching, Learning, and Serving for Seven Decades**
by Mary Glindinning
- 21 **Salt Briefs**
- 22 **In Memoriam**
- 24 **Sister Jean: Celebrating a Century**



On the cover: Change is constant, and change is apparent in the development of Mount Carmel Bluffs. Amid all the change, the mission of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary continues to be to serve those in most need and to build relationships as they welcome others to their home. In the cover photo, sisters, guests, neighbors, and friends break ground for a new senior living community. Inside this issue of **Salt**, learn how "TOGETHER We Make the Path by Walking" through missions to help the homeless, educate the poor, feed the hungry, and connect with millennials. As the diamond jubliarians can attest, our mission evolves but the focus remains on the BVM core values of education, freedom, justice, and charity.

During the summer gathering, BVMs and associates don these T-shirts to honor the past, live the present, and imagine the future.



'TOGETHER We Make the Path by Walking'

by Mira Mosle, BVM

BVMs and Associates cherish opportunities to come together!

When the mixture is prayer, stimulating conversations, insights into one another and the future, sprinkled with lavish amounts of fun and laughter, who can resist?

Such was this summer's experience when 175 eager descendants of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke converged at the Best Western in Dubuque, Iowa, linked by video to more than 100 sisters at Mount Carmel, for a rich and diverse weekend, July 12–14, where "TOGETHER We Make the Path by Walking."

*"Traveler, there is no path.
The path is made by walking.
Traveler, the path is your tracks
And nothing more.
Traveler, there is no path.
The path is made by walking.
By walking you make a path
And turning, you look back
At the way you will
never tread again.
Traveler, there is no road
Only wakes in the sea."*

—Antonio Machado,
Border of a Dream: Selected Poems

"We are on the cusp of something new, with many unknowns in our developing partnership with Presbyterian Homes & Services," says summer gathering co-chair Karen Conover, BVM in her welcome. "The physical transformation into Mount Carmel Bluffs has already begun, but the more significant work of personal transformation may not be so readily evident."

In addition to a streamlined BVM governance structure beginning next year, there are transitions of "changes in residence, letting go of treasured ministries, encountering significant health challenges, experiencing losses of persons dear to us in family and community, of fragile and life-threatening systems and actions within government, church, and world."

Karen continues, “We are living in the liminal spaces of our lives in which we are called to let go of much, but we are being inexorably drawn by the Spirit as She births something new that we can only imagine for ourselves, our BVM congregation, religious life, the church, and the entire cosmos.”

The ensuing prayer was a journey of memories, a recollection of where BVMs and friends have walked and frequently created together. Beloved paths at Mount Carmel, multiple paths of ministry, marches and vigils, journeys with those suffering, voyages into the many forms of prayer and spirituality—a plethora of persons, places, and feelings surfaced.

Going Deeper

Saturday morning’s communal meditation recalled experiences of community . . . the varied landscapes of individual and communal paths . . . of gifts and mistakes, of steps big and small. Ahead lies a prairie where new paths will be forged in the BVM pioneer spirit, replete with risks and joys, patience and perseverance.

- Where is the freedom in redefining “our” as a whole/part nestled within a greater whole?
- What is the invitation to deeper growth in expanded collaboration?
- How do we continue to bring love and kindness to the tension within the paradox of individual freedom and our deep need for relationship?

“The gifts you bring to this circle of friends—matter,” says facilitator Katie Pfiffner. “The resistance you might feel—matters. It’s not about positive or negative, it is awareness around the quality of our connections because we are influencing each other whether we mean to or not.”

“We are each other’s environment,” Marjorie (Herberdette) Heidkamp, BVM says. “The world is incomplete without you.”

To give voice to the morning’s inner work and small group sharing, each table composed a cinquain shape poem of five lines. These crystallized the dreams, hopes, and feelings that had emerged, revealing multi-faceted perspectives of the journey.



Skits are one way the March Madness group, which includes BVMs Paulette Skiba (l.), LaDonna Manternach, Mary Lou Wetzell, and Pat Bombard, connects with each other.

A Unique Path

BVM path makers include a unique group: those who entered the community in 1973 or after, when each set was very small or a single individual. These 16 women have become known as the March Madness group, so named after the weekend they come together each year to share personal stories and concerns.

Humorous skits, storytelling, and music revealed new patterns of “connecting with each other, praying together, playing together, making the

path by walking . . . together.” Informal and spontaneous, yet also formal and conscious, the March Madness group in its diversity offers each other “the freedom, respect, and support necessary to live out our core values in our own unique way.”

Be it March, a vacation week at Two Spiders Lodge in northern Wisconsin, or Homecoming each New Year’s at Mount Carmel, theirs is a new road, created step-by-step over the decades.

Summer Gathering continued on p. 6.



Changes of Pace

Fun and laughter took center stage when participants tested their knowledge of BVM Life and Mission guided by LaDonna Manternach, BVM (l.).

The mood turned somber as sisters and associates hastened to join “Lights for Liberty Vigils to End Detention Camps” in downtown Washington Park and at Mount Carmel. Present at the vigil are BVMs Colleen (Rose Maureen) McGinnity (l.) and Ann (Ann Thomas) DeNicolò.



Millennials

A growing phenomenon around the country is “Nuns and Nones,” interactions between women religious and the millennial generation that are opening new doors of community and ministry. This dialogue came to the Best Western on Sunday morning as a panel of five, ranging in age from 20 to 32, articulated their values and spirituality.

They are passionate about the environment, immigration justice, caring for others, and making all feel welcome—values that resonate with BVMs.

“I feel a lot of responsibility to pick up where you leave off,” says Clarke University student Elena Dominguez. “Our ideas are different on how to solve problems, but we are willing to listen to each other.”

“My friends are of this same mindset,” adds Madi Martin, a nursing student who also works at Mount Carmel.

For Gabe Freund, the father of two young children and counselor at a home for persons with disabilities, it’s essential to give children a better world.

Their spirituality is evolving and not tied to the Catholic faith. Rachael Stieber-

Smith, wellness manager at Mount Carmel, practices yoga and meditation to connect with a higher power. Nature is significant to each one, as well as being inspired by the persons in their lives.

“Those of us here are all privileged,” notes lawyer Bridget Goldbeck. “Lots of young folks don’t have the opportunities we’ve had.”

“What do you need?” they were asked. Responses came quickly: connecting with others and sharing our passions . . . acceptance . . .

the sunshine of positivity to counteract being bogged down by negativity . . . finding organizations that do good . . . figuring out how to deal with so much college debt that we need to get to the top competitively . . . events like this where we are listened to.

BVMs came away inspired to break new ground by initiating these conversations across the country.

Culminating in Eucharist

A joyous Sunday afternoon liturgy brought Gathering participants together in the Motherhouse Chapel with Mount

Carmel sisters. The day’s Gospel of the Good Samaritan paralleled the early BVM journey, notes Pat Bombard, BVM in her homily. “Like the traveler on his way to Jericho, their journey got sidetracked, and they eventually found themselves accepting an invitation to take another path.”

“The Gathering’s breadth, nourishment, connective energy, and reflective time were uplifting and renewing.”

—Pat (Herbert Mary) Thalhuber, BVM

For 185 years, that path of compassion has been fed by a common vision: love of God, self, and one another. It will continue, with courage and risk, into the uncharted future.

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.

BVMs and millennials sharing values and concerns at the Summer Gathering are: (l. to r.) moderator Karen Conover, BVM, Bridget Goldbeck, Madi Martin, Elena Dominguez, Gabe Freund, Rachel Stieber-Smith, and BVM responders Mary Ann Zollmann and Sara McAlpin.



Assisting Homeless College Students Rooted in Vincentian Spirituality

by Patricia M. Bombard, BVM

In the mid-17th century, when

St. Vincent de Paul, the Catholic Church's "Apostle of Charity," walked the streets of Paris, it is said that as much as 10 percent of the Paris population of 400,000 were homeless beggars.

Vincent's response to what he witnessed arose from his spirituality, says Vincentian priest Hugh O'Donnell, CM. He describes Vincent as following "a way" that began with finding the will of God in the reality around him, and then moving into action.

Following in Vincent's footsteps, members of several Vincentian organizations in Chicago recently found themselves surprised by a present-day reality: homeless college students. Inspired by Vincent's legacy, they committed themselves to take action. Among them was Chuck Levesque, executive director of DePaul USA, an affiliate of DePaul International, a Vincentian organization working to eliminate homelessness in countries around the world.

In 2014, Chuck began collaborating with Shenay Bridges in DePaul University's student affairs division to identify students in need. Based on her contacts, Shenay estimated there were about 50 homeless students at DePaul each academic quarter, falling into two groups—the first being students living in their cars or couch surfing; the second being students who lost their housing (including in residence halls) because they fell behind academically or became delinquent in paying tuition and fees.

Chuck and his staff initially responded with a plan to create a "home host" program for students, relying on university faculty and staff to act as hosts. They named it the Dax Program. Based on the experience of one student placed in an apartment offered by a member of St. Vincent's Parish, they determined a better solution lay in acquiring a home students can share while completing their degree, paying only a small fee, and working to

help care for the house. That plan proved so successful in its first year that DePaul USA recently acquired a second house.

Beginning in the spring of 2015, I helped coordinate a group of DePaul faculty and staff who met twice monthly with DePaul USA staff for several years. We learned more about the needs of housing insecure students by hearing from students and studying the systemic nature of the issue.

Just as in Vincent's time, seeing the reality of homelessness is leading to action, to help DePaul students realize their dreams.

We learned that to be successful at completing college, students need not just financial aid, but nearly a dozen other resources often lacking for first-generation or under-resourced students: knowledge of higher education culture and expectations, social support networks, mentors, emotional intelligence, physical health, and spiritual grounding.

We also learned that the stigma of being homeless makes it difficult for students to ask for help. On the other hand, we learned that students, though clearly struggling, have within them a tremendous resilience and a passion to earn their degree.

"If I don't get this degree, I've got nothing," says Cassandra Murff during our first conversation (pictured top, r.). A complex family situation left Cassandra homeless in her junior year at a Chicago high school. A faculty mentor there encouraged her to attend DePaul because as a resident student "I would have a place to live."

Cassandra discovered, however, that her financial aid package through DePaul, a small scholarship from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and a job at Walgreens did not provide enough money to cover tuition, housing, books, and food. At first hesitant to reach out to others (she refused a faculty member who offered her

"... I had to learn to become comfortable being uncomfortable."

—Cassandra Murff



a coat when she noticed Cassandra didn't have one), Cassandra eventually became an outspoken advocate on behalf of students like herself.

"One of the things I always tell people is that I had to learn to become comfortable being uncomfortable," Cassandra says in an interview for a DePaul press release. "I had to force myself to actually speak up about these issues because, as embarrassing as it was for me, I knew the end goal was for me to graduate college and obtain a degree, so that I could go on and get a good job."

Cassandra did graduate in June 2018, the first in her family to do so, earning a bachelor's degree in English. She was hired by the company where she had interned. Best of all, she was able to afford her own apartment.

Just as in Vincent's time, seeing the reality of homelessness is leading to action, to help DePaul students realize their dreams.

About the author: Patricia M. Bombard, BVM serves as director of Vincent on Leadership: The Hay Project at DePaul University.

Statistics show the success rate of the Dax Program since 2015:

- 44 students served
- 15 students received housing
- 14 students graduated
- 10 students currently being housed

Nationwide, it is estimated that tens of thousands of college students are homeless. To learn more about the Dax program for DePaul students visit: tinyurl.com/y2mabx5j.

Mount Carmel Bluffs: *Building Community, Sharing Values*

by Mary Glindinning

The bell tolled, prayers rose, and a planned transformation was revealed in mid-June at a groundbreaking celebration for the newest development along the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa: Mount Carmel Bluffs.

The three-year project will preserve Mount Carmel as home for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and make room for a senior living community for Dubuque-area men and women.

The Mount Carmel Bluffs name and architect's drawings were unveiled for the first time as BVM President Teri Hadro welcomed guests to the groundbreaking.

"We are still missioned to make God's love known through service to others," Teri says. "We still work to create community wherever we find ourselves. This project will advance that mission. It will make possible new relationships and bring creative ways to serve others while ensuring quality care for our members."

Mount Carmel Bluffs is a joint venture



Front row, (l.): LaDonna Manternach, VP Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM); Jenessa Koedam, Regional Director of HR, Presbyterian Homes & Services (PHS); Amber Rogers, Regional Director of Clinical Services, PHS; Deb Waedt, VP Sales & Marketing, PHS; Lisa Albain, Developer, Senior Housing Partners (SHP); Bill Hagstrom VP, SHP; Mark Meyer, CFO, PHS; Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol; Dan Lindh, President, PHS; Mark Hudson, Regional Director of Operations, PHS (holding the rendering); Teri Hadro, President, BVM; State Senator Pam Jochum; Monsignor Tom Toale, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Dubuque; Lou Anglin, VP, BVM; Alan Stache, Treasurer, BVM; Kate Hendel, Congregational Secretary, BVM; Terese Shinnors, BVM; Dee Myers, BVM.

of the BVM Sisters and Presbyterian Homes & Services (PHS), based in St. Paul, Minn., to meet the needs of a growing older adult population in the Dubuque-area. Construction began in May 2019, with the first phase scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2020.

There are now 300 BVM sisters, two-thirds of whom live in Dubuque. Their median age is 82.

“Our demographics told us we would need to continue caring for our sisters for at least 30 more years,” Teri says. “We need help providing that care.”

And BVMs want to make the best use of Mount Carmel for themselves and others. “We will be underutilized unless we make some changes,” Teri says. “This venture represents a shared ministry as BVMs and PHS join hands to touch the hearts and enrich the lives of others by creating a vibrant living space in which

each resident—sisters and our Dubuque-area neighbors alike—can thrive physically, spiritually, and socially.”

Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol says the “magnificent project” is visionary, innovative, and sets a national example. “It creates the opportunity to meet the needs of the BVM community and provide quality residential and health care services for area seniors in a setting with breathtaking natural beauty,” Buol says.

Mount Carmel is where most sisters entered the congregation and where they come home to continue to minister in retirement.

“We have loved our home and we are delighted to share this place of extraordinary beauty with you,” says Dolores “Dee” Myers, BVM, a future Mount Carmel Bluffs resident. “Each new resident will assuredly bring a freshness and mystery to life in this new creation. Soon, on cool summer and fall evenings, we look forward to sitting with you on the front benches, taking in the panoramic view of ‘three of the finest states in the Union,’ a quote from the bishop of

Dubuque when this land was purchased by the sisters in 1889.”

“Strong values are embedded in the soil, values which are multiplied and enriched on this new Mount Carmel Bluff.”

—Dee Myers, BVM

Mount Carmel Bluffs continued on p. 10.





BVMs Kate Hendel (l.), congregational secretary, and Teri Hadro, president, unveil plans for Mount Carmel Bluffs.

Mount Carmel Bluffs continued from p. 9.

Dee says conversations might touch on the shared experience of nurturing future generations as sister-teachers and parents, with the common goal of encouraging children to use their skills and talents to become good citizens and leaders.

“Strong values are embedded in the soil,” Dee says, “values which are multiplied and enriched on this new Mount Carmel Bluff. In this vibrant community of multiple cultures, diverse expressions of faith and life experiences, this distinctive, welcoming blend of people will

surely flourish and discover new life with each other.”

Dan Lindh, president and CEO of PHS, says demographic estimates show that over the next decade, nearly 10 percent of the Dubuque area population will be over the age of 75.

“We have a responsibility and obligation to serve in this faith-based ministry and outreach to the best of our ability,” he says. “We have a shared vision, a lot in common, and a commitment to a ministry that will be enduring. We claim

to live a Christian ministry to integrate faith in what we do as best we can. We share that tenet with the BVMs.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, LaDonna Manternach, BVM vice president, led the guests in the benediction: “We believe that, just as God has guided and spoken to us in the past, God now speaks to us on our daily journey and calls to us from the future. We are all together, supporting one another on this journey.”

In response, the group sang, “I am with you on the journey, and I will never leave you. I am with you on the journey, always with you,”* as they joined the procession outside.

Once again, the bell tolled as sisters, stakeholders, invited guests, neighbors, and others descended the Motherhouse front steps, put on hard hats, and sunk spades into the earth in a ceremonial groundbreaking.

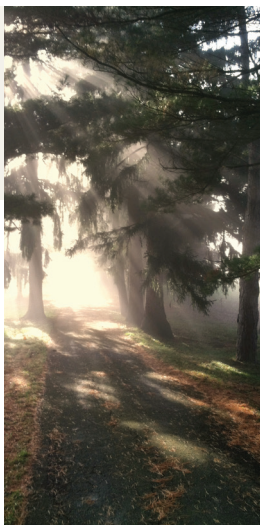
“Mount Carmel Bluffs will transform the present Mount Carmel,” says Teri, “and we BVMs, PHS, and our Dubuque neighbors will know this sacred place in new ways.”



Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol (l.) congratulates Dan Lindh, president and CEO of Presbyterian Homes & Services, at the groundbreaking.

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

*“I Am With You” by Kathy Sherman, CSJ, ©1992.



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, President Teri Hadro, and Vice Presidents Lou Anglin and LaDonna Manternach, 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 third of three reflections that explores these questions.

Taking Care of Place

by Carolyn Farrell, BVM



It gave me pause to examine my understanding of “taking care of Place” as expressed in the 2018 Team Talk: no easy task. How could I share my reaction to its message in this short article? I struggled to define Place as it

pertained to the BVM core value of freedom, as well as connecting it to the notion of the common good and linking it to my everyday spirituality.

I reread the Team Talk and moved into careful reading of BVM Teri Hadro’s presentation of “Place.” She says: “I like to define ‘Place’ as the set of relationships within which we find ourselves at any particular time.”

Ah, a glimmer of light. Relationships I understand. She notes we have all worked in various ministries, lived in different places, traveled in and out of the country. The relationships associated with each place are far more significant than the place where they happened.

My early days as a postulant and novice provided relationships that lasted a lifetime, even with a “Rule of Silence.” As an extrovert I enjoyed recreation, an easy give-and-take experience of creating friendship and appreciation for one another. Other “non-recreational” experiences also strengthened my relationship with my new friends: future members together in community.

BVM life led me to the classroom and administration; convent living and apartment

living; BVM governance and local politics; world travel and Dubuque, Iowa. The Place provided the arena where relationships, and often friendships, were formed through activities designed to make the world a better place: children learning how to read; facilitating Mundelein College blending into Loyola University; community life changing; BVM governance adapting; women expanding the political scene; Beijing hosting the United Nations Fourth International Conference on Women; and many of us Dubuquers working for the common good.

Those commitments and activities were the outcomes, known or unknown, of my response to the Vatican II directive to Religious Congregations to return to “their roots” for a renewal of spirit. As an active member of our congregation, I participated in intense discussion, personal reflection, and prayer as the community faced the challenging task of renewal. A key outcome of this arduous process was the acknowledgement of our mission: “being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love.”

As I concluded my reflection, “taking care of Place,” I realized that our mission statement “being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love” underlies all the activity, reflection, and prayer of our BVM spirituality. I agree with Teri’s definition: “Place” is the set of relationships within which we find ourselves at any particular time.”

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

Nuevo Mundo: *Something Different in an Unexpected Place*

by Luann Brown, BVM

Students at Nuevo Mundo in Guayaquil, Ecuador, celebrated the school's 35th anniversary in July.



One Sunday morning, on the cusp

of the first steps toward the dream of BVM Associates Pat McTeague and Sonya Rendón of creating a unique school that would serve the educational needs of poor children in Ecuador, Pat was listening to the *New World Symphony* by Dvorak. Pat describes the music as gentle in some places, bombastic in others. The symphony, which was Dvorak's effort to bring "something different to an unexpected place," inspired the name of the school, Nuevo Mundo.

Like most awe-inspiring lifetime endeavors, Nuevo Mundo had humble beginnings. Motivated by the social justice precepts of Observe-Reflect-Act, Pat and Sonya first witnessed realities in Ecuador such as social class division, inequality, and the lack of basic resources, including education.

Reflection and dialogue between them and Sonya's mother, Celeste, blossomed into a dream of creating a school which provided quality education for children who could not otherwise afford it. They began to take action toward fulfilling this vision of a "New World."

Preparing and securing funds for the endeavor was the initial course of action. Sonya received a scholarship from the BVM community to study at Mundelein College in Chicago in exchange for cooking at Immaculata High School. This preparation facilitated Sonya's ability to receive credentials to start the school from the Ministry of Education of Ecuador.

Pat and Sonya were advised to begin by working with the wealthy, so the school was launched with one class for tuition-paying students and increased by one class per year.

It takes a village to cultivate and

harvest a dream. Pat and Sonya recognize the support they have received from multiple sources. Sonya's parents, Rodolfo and Celeste, were co-founders of the school. They relinquished their home as the space to begin the school for children who paid tuition.

Sonya's brothers, one an engineer and the other an architect, later designed and built the school on the property where it is currently located. Friends raised funds and offered a variety of supportive services.

Sisters from the BVM community have offered time and talent over the years.

Five years after Nuevo Mundo began to accept students who paid tuition, the school was ready to begin the mission of serving children who did not have access to an education. BVMs Kathy (Richard Marie) Conway and Theresa (Dorothy) Gleeson were instrumental during this transition. They traveled to the nearby Pueblo of Duran, where families lived in poverty conditions, and began to talk to people about the opportunity for a quality education for their children.

Initially, it was a challenge to gain the trust of the residents of Duran, who had experienced exploitation from foreigners. Perseverance and commitment



“My heart burned when I heard the message of transforming the lives of these children who had no possibility of an education.”

—Kathy Conway, BVM

to being a loving presence eventually bore fruit and Kathy and Theresa connected with the community.

Duran had only dirt roads at the time and Theresa and Kathy recount the story of getting stuck in the mud. Male residents of the town rallied and utilized their knowledge and abilities to extract the truck. One of the men invited the pair to his home where his wife proceeded to wash their feet. Theresa reflects, “We were deeply touched by this. They did not know us and it was beautiful for them to be so Christ-like.” The son in this family became the first student of the Foundation school.

Kathy taught students in both schools, acted as coordinator for the Foundation, and provided transportation to and from Duran. Kathy reflects on her call to become involved in the mission, “My heart burned when I heard the message of transforming the lives of these children who had no possibility of an education.”

Theresa worked with Celeste in forming base communities for spiritual reflection with mothers from both schools. Theresa recalls that there was much resistance on the part of the wealthy parents to share resources with the poor, but eventually attitudes and

stereotypes began to transform. Theresa recalls, “It was a joy and a privilege to be with the people of Ecuador and Pat, Sonya, Celeste, and Rodolfo. They were the kind of people who would give everything they had for the poor.”

Other BVMs have given large and small amounts of time to the ministry throughout the years. Ann Credidio, BVM taught in the preschool for a number of years before she was introduced to the hospital for people with Hansen’s Disease and embarked on a dream of her own.

Luann Brown, BVM began a program for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder. She trained an Ecuadorian teacher to continue the program. Luann also directed the English program for the Foundation. Many other BVM sisters and associates have offered time, resources, and support.

In addition to the school, which currently has 970 students in the morning school for those who pay tuition and 265 students in the Foundation, the mission of the Fundación Nuevo Mundo has expanded to create medical centers and day cares in various areas of Duran. Teachers in the day cares were recipients of Mary Frances Clarke Scholarships that enable them to update credentials and keep their jobs to meet the requirement of Ecuador’s Ministry of Education.

When questioned about the future of the ministry, Sonya reflects, “As the river

follows its course, so life and education are in constant change. We have to be aware of change and live in the present moment. The only unchangeable thing is God’s love no matter your race, religion, or region. We need to read the part of the gospel over and over again that tells us that others will know we are disciples if we love one another.”

Pat adds, “I think it is good to look back and see all the wonderful people who made this a success. I am happy to have been a part of it and am convinced that it is the work of God that will continue through the young people who benefitted from our efforts and will carry on the ‘New World’ of love and justice.”

The work of love and justice continues. Sonya’s nephew, Rodolfo, and an alum are current directors of the school. At a recent Nuevo Mundo 35th anniversary celebration, 275 graduates of the Foundation, who are all professionals, returned. As Celeste once stated, “If it is God’s work, it will survive despite our mistakes.” Nuevo Mundo continues to survive and thrive. Sonya shares, “Now we smile a lot.”

About the author: Luann Brown, BVM worked at Nuevo Mundo as a teacher for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder and as the coordinator of the English program in the Foundation. Currently, Luann is ministering as a substance abuse counselor at Presence Behavioral Health in Westchester, Ill.



BVM Associates Pat McTeague (center) and Sonya Rendón (r.) founded Nuevo Mundo in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Donor Profile: Passion Creates, Sustains Ecuador School

by Kathy Conway, BVM

"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

Marianne Littau and Jean O'Keefe, both former BVMs, have been generous donors to the BVM congregation for many years. What is less well known is their strong support in the development of Fundación Nuevo Mundo, a remarkable Catholic school founded by BVM Associates Sonya Rendón and Pat McTeague in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The story begins in the late 1970s. Marianne was director of continuing education at Mundelein College in Chicago. Sonya Rendón had come to the United States from Ecuador and was working for the BVMs at the convent of Immaculata High School in Chicago. She had a dream: to save enough money to open a school for the poor in her home city, Guayaquil. Ann Ida Gannon, BVM connected Sonya with Marianne, who helped Sonya start on the road toward her M.A. degree from Mundelein.

Intrigued by Sonya and Pat's dream school, Jean and Marianne invited them

to dinner. Over the meal they asked "What do you need?" "Money" was the quick answer.

Marianne and Jean were moved by their passion and got right to work. They set up a non-profit that could receive donations and called it Nuevo Mundo USA (NMUSA). In 1983 Jean, Marianne, and their friends held the first of many fundraising events. They invited every family member, friend, colleague, and acquaintance they knew to an open house at their home in Evanston, Ill. They asked each invitee to make a \$20 donation to Nuevo Mundo. They raised \$4,000.

Over the next 10 years they raised over \$100,000 for the Guayaquil school. That money bought a new bus, purchased windows and computers for the school, among many other necessities.

Gradually, this "circle of friends" devised other methods of financial and social support.

- Former BVMs Kateri O'Shea and Tina Stretch helped paint furniture and murals for the first class and have provided years of support.

- Mary Alma (Robert Emmett) Sullivan, BVM began a quarterly newsletter keeping donors apprised of activities at Nuevo Mundo. Kathy (Richard Marie) Conway, BVM, who was working there at the time, provided stories and biographies of the students.
- The group initiated a scholarship program where an individual donor could sponsor a child for a year. Mary Alma monitored this program through the newsletter.
- BVMs Mary Pat (St. Thomas) Haley, Ann (St. Remi) Harrington, and Mary Alma traveled to Guayaquil and planted trees in the noonday sun to beautify the new location being built for the quickly expanding school.

A surprising thing happened in 1993. Pat and Sonya, whose desire had always been to make the school self-sufficient, requested no more outside funding. No more outside funding? No one had ever heard of an institution refusing outside funds, but the group complied with their wishes.

When asked what kept them motivated to continue their fundraising activities, Jean says, "When I visited the school and saw the unbelievable poverty of the children being served, I thought—this isn't right. The faces of the children sustained me. I wanted to make a difference in their lives."

Marianne reflects, "I was moved by how a small group, passionate about their cause, could make such a huge difference in the lives of so many."

This July, Kateri, Tina, Jean, and Marianne traveled to Ecuador to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Foundation school. Jean recalls, "At the celebration we were delighted to see the 275 current students performing musical numbers and skits to honor their school. But we were especially moved by the 70 or 80 graduates, successful adults, who gathered on stage to sing their school song: *There's a New World Coming*."

Indeed, never doubt the power of a group of dedicated persons to transform the world.



Among those attending the 35th reunion at Nuevo Mundo are (l.) Jean O'Keefe, Sonya Rendón, Tina Stretch, Kateri O'Shea, Marianne Littau, and Pat McTeague.

About the author: Kathy (Richard Marie) Conway, BVM is retired and lives in Brookfield, Ill.

Photos Cards Fight Hunger

by Pat Nolan, BVM



Just outside the Caritas dining room at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, rests a full display of colorful greeting cards, each boasting a photograph of a flower, a floral bouquet, or a nature scene. These photograph-cards are the creation of Mary Janine Wolff, BVM, currently a resident at Mount Carmel.

In 1970, Mary Janine's parents gave her a small camera, and her dad taught her to take pictures. "See, frame, take it—don't move!" he instructed. And Mary Janine began to take pictures in earnest as she traveled. Now, nearly 50 years later, Mary Janine's chosen retirement ministry largely focuses on creating "photo-greeting cards."

The photographs are nearly always of nature—a bench overlooking the Mississippi River, an Iowa sunset, or, most frequently, a lovely flower or bouquet. Prior to these card-flower photos, however, Mary Janine took 30 years' worth of pictures, mostly nature scenes of places she had travelled to such as Yosemite National Park and the Grand Canyon. Serious preparation for her current delicate work!

Mary Janine's "art work" began at an early age, at home, with a box of eight crayons and construction paper. She enjoyed "making art" and credits her father "who taught me to see" and her mother who insisted she "use things up." "I learned

to express myself with whatever materials were around," she explains, "and I am blessed with what my parents taught me."

Much later, Mary Janine's interest in and fascination with nature grew as she became facile with her small camera, often taking entire rolls of film on nature scenes. "I'd see something lovely and I couldn't resist taking the picture!" she exclaims. The variations in nature fascinated her. "I was so interested in the layers of mountains behind the clouds," she continues, "and their colors reflected in the lake."

What to do with all these pictures? The idea of making greeting cards became "something I can do to help," Mary Janine shares. Thus, some 30 years ago, Mary Janine began processing and selling her signature "nature cards." Her cards are not priced; a donation only is requested for each card. All proceeds are sent to the BVM Hunger Fund, which provides financial assistance to organizations that work abroad to

alleviate world hunger. When asked "Why your choice of the Hunger Fund?" Mary Janine replies quietly, "I've never been hungry." Since 2011, donations from the sale of Mary Janine's cards have amounted to nearly \$9,000.

Recipients of Mary Janine Wolff's greeting cards will be charmed by the loveliness of her photos. And not only the recipient but the sender of the card will feel the "heart-uplift" that each card offers. Whether a rose, a floral bouquet, or an Iowa sunset, the dual benefit becomes gift indeed.

About the author: Pat (Frederick Mary) Nolan, BVM is a retired faculty member of the Language and Literature Department at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa.



Mary Janine Wolff, BVM uses her nature photographs to make greeting cards, with proceeds going to the BVM Hunger Fund because "I've never been hungry."

Just a Pinch

To contribute to the BVM Hunger Fund, visit:
bvmsisters.org/online-donations.



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

Sisters Respond to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor

by Teri Hadro, BVM

“A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.”

—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*, #49

Union of International Superiors General (UISG)

is a worldwide, canonically approved organization of Superiors General of Institutes of Catholic women religious across the globe. UISG provides an international forum to share information and experiences and encourages collaboration among religious congregations within the church and larger society. UISG offices are in Rome, Italy. It is organized globally into 10 geographic constellations. The first triennial assembly was held in 1967 and the 21st in 2019. Its current projects include:

- Talitha Kum (Human Trafficking worldwide)
- Migrants Sicily and Migrants International
- Sowing Hope for the Planet (with the Global Catholic Climate Movement)

Resources:

- *Laudato Si: On Caring for our Common Home.* Encyclical of Pope Francis 2015: tinyurl.com/ptcm9bz
- The Catholic Climate Covenant: catholicclimatecovenant.org
- The Global Catholic Climate Movement: catholicclimatemovement.global
- *Migration and Climate Change*, by Oli Brown: tinyurl.com/y54fm32z



Imagine 600,000+ women religious

across the globe focusing on, acting and praying for the health and well-being of Earth. That's the goal the Union of International Superiors General (UISG) announced at its triennial meeting in Rome this past May. Imagine the possibilities as Catholic sister after Catholic sister shares her determination to do what she can to care for "our common home!"

UISG's campaign is pegged to the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. Leaders from 800 of the globe's 2,000 congregations of Catholic sisters enthusiastically embraced the common goal and pledged to engage their members in one of nine suggested actions:

- Observing the Season of Creation (Sept. 1–Oct. 4, 2019).
- Engaging in the experience of/praying for the Synod "Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology." (Oct. 6–27, 2019).
- Advocating for the rights of indigenous people.
- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 2020).
- Celebrating the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si*.
- Supporting youth involvement in healing the climate.
- Advocating for countries to join the global effort to not exceed a 1.5 degrees Celsius rise in global temperature.
- Deciding to divest from fossil fuels and to invest in renewable energy.
- Choosing to observe international days.

After discussion on the final afternoon of the UISG meeting, sisters from the U.S. constellation agreed to focus their congregations' energies on migration by advocating for the rights of indigenous and all peoples to safe access to life's basic needs. Pope Francis insists that "justice requires consideration of both the environment and the world's economically poor peoples." In section #25 of his encyclical, he explains the connection:

“For example, changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees.” *LS #25*

For U.S. sisters, this is a continuation of a mission already begun. According to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), at least 1,000 Catholic sisters in the U.S. have given time and energy in service to migrants at the border with Mexico in 2019 alone. Donations of more than \$1 million were sent to facilities and agencies providing shelter, counseling, basic amenities, legal aid, and care for immigrants released from detention centers. U.S. congregations additionally have sent funds in support of UISG’s three missions in Sicily established to welcome migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

These activities surely fall into line with Francis’ thinking:

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” *LS #139*

Imagine 600,000 women religious across the globe listening to, focusing on, acting and praying for the health and well-being of Earth. Envision them listening to, focusing on, acting and praying in response to the cry of the poor. Imagine each of those women joining her heart, hands and feet with 10 others. Now there are *six million* people working in concert to heal our common home. And if each of those six million join heart, hands, and feet with 10 others . . .

About the author: BVM President Teri Hadro attended the most recent UISG conference in May 2019, as all BVM presidents have done since 1967.

A Future Free from Gun Violence

by Associate Lori Ritz



Each year on June 2, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, thousands gather across the country to support organizations that seek to reduce gun violence. As

groups come together wearing orange, I reflect on three personal stories that have touched my life deeply.

When my son was in eighth grade in Phoenix, I received a call from the principal that my son was on a “hit list” of a student who brought a gun to school that day. The student was apprehended but seeing my son’s name on the list was fearful, painful, and incomprehensible. The arrested youth did not even know my son! All I wanted to do was cradle my son in my arms. **Wouldn’t you?**

When the shooting occurred at Sandy Hook, I was principal at an elementary school of 900 children in Phoenix. The following day I was approached by students of every age (especially first graders) who asked, “Ms. Ritz, what would you do if that happened at our school? How would we be safe?” Children should never have to worry about their safety. **How would you have responded?**

In June, I received a text from my close friend who lived in Seattle. Her divorce would be final the following day. She had tried many ways to get help for her soon-to-be ex-husband. A week later,

her ex-husband came to her home, went upstairs and shot her twice in the chest. She died at the scene. Her three children were in the home at the time of the murder. **How would you respond to those children ages 12, 15, 17?**

Until we make gun control a personal issue, nothing changes. We have the power and position to speak out and act. I invite you to join me in asking a few things of our public officials:

- Mandatory registration of all gun purchases and transfers;
- Universal background checks requiring a two-week waiting period;
- A ban on the sale of assault weapons and magazines/clips or attachments capable of firing over seven rounds of ammunition;
- A Red Flag Law that would let a court temporarily prohibit someone from possessing or buying a gun if they are judged to be a risk to themselves or to others.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, located in Washington, D.C., as of Sept. 1 there have been 283 mass shootings in the U.S.

How many deaths does it take to change the law? Does it have to be someone close to you before you act?

When will you act?

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

The BVM leadership team and all the Sisters of Charity, BVM mourn with families whose loved ones have been killed or wounded through gun violence, and pledge, with the members of LCWR, to advocate for “... the passage of laws that ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for all gun sales, provide funding for gun violence prevention research, and make the trafficking in weapons a federal crime.”



lcwr.org/media/lcwr-calls-end-gun-violence



BVMs Anne (St. Edwin) Buckley (l.) and Ann (St. Remi) Harrington advocate for a future free from gun violence during a 2018 rally at Washington Park in Dubuque, Iowa.



Teaching, Learning, and Serving for Seven Decades

by Mary Glindinning

BVMs celebrating 490 years of combined mission include, front row, (l.): Mary Jeanne Stopper, Ramona Barwick, Donard Collins, and Mary Anne Lynch; and back row, (l.): Joyce M. Cox, Mary A. Healey, and Dolores Marie McHugh.

They arrived by train—the first train trip of their lives for many—the end of the summer after their high school graduation for most.

As Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they became a principal, nurse, director of personnel and payroll services, postmistress, vicar for religious, school superintendent, and hospital chaplain.

“Being a BVM sister means I’m not trying to change the world alone.”

— Mary A. Healey, BVM

Teaching was the first mission for all seven jubilarians, and education is one of the shared core values that guided their work.

Seven members of the set of 1949 celebrated their Diamond Jubilee Sept. 8 during a Mass at the Mount Carmel Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa.

Their entrance day was the beginning of a combined 490 years of experience, spiritual and intellectual enrichment, and opportunity to serve for the jubilarians.

“Being a BVM sister means I’m not trying to change the world alone,” says Mary A. Healey, BVM. “I’m always working with others, some of whom do things that I can’t do. When we cooperate, we can make a difference. They do what they can, and I do what I can. It means community.”

They all took many paths to service and many journeys throughout their careers.

“Because we moved from place to place,” Mary shares, “we got ideas from

many different places. We knew many ways to do things.”

At the time, the moves and changes were not always easy, but in retrospect, Donard Collins, BVM is grateful for “all the opportunities we’ve been given as BVMs.”

They were opportunities she might not have had except for the BVMs. Her life was changed when she saw the poverty and segregation in the South during three years in Memphis. She was able to travel to Honduras and had the opportunity to witness another culture and to help start a new school in Washington state.

Whatever the mission, they knew they were not alone.

“I have always felt the love and support of others during difficult times and in joyful celebrations,” says Dolores Marie McHugh, BVM. As a BVM she feels, “gratitude and love for my family, friends, co-workers, and the BVM community—for all who have supported and encouraged me on this beautiful journey.”

Support enabled them to continue their work.

"I think of all the lives that each one of us has touched, all those lives that have touched us," says Joyce (Petrine) Cox, BVM. "... our faith and trust in God and this community itself still enables us to keep on keeping on together through difficult times, very good times, challenging times, and joyful times."

And the support of families, both near and far, sustains them still.

They left their homes, families, and everything familiar to join a group of "women religious who committed themselves to a mission and ministry of teaching and serving the needs of the poor and those on the margin," Joyce said at the jubilee Mass.

Joyce was just out of high school when she came to Mount Carmel, "a completely different world" than her home in Butte, Montana.

"I've always been so touched" by how BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke and her friends came from their urban home in Ireland to the American frontier with "this deep, deep desire to make a difference with education," Joyce shares. "I am so proud to be able to say 'I'm a BVM sister and this is the story from 1833 of how many joined the BVMs and educated children and adults.'"

Working and living with a community of people who have the same values is a strength, Donard says. "Most of the people



Jean (James Miriam) Gordon, BVM (l.), Pat Judge, and Mary (Mercedie) McCauley, BVM congratulate Dolores Marie McHugh, BVM at the diamond jubilee celebration.

you live with feel the same about giving money to the poor and getting involved in social justice issues. It's an opportunity to grow, I think, because each person is helping you to develop different skills."

New skills lead to individual growth, allowing them to better help students and others they met flourish.

"I treasure being a BVM," says Mary Jeanne (John Edward) Stopper, BVM. "I have been privileged to live with sisters

who all have the same values and goals. I especially have enjoyed helping students learn and grow. I can't believe 70 years have passed so fast!" Who knew that first train ride 70 years ago would lead to the journey of a lifetime.

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



BVM Sisters Celebrate *Diamond Jubilees*

The following Diamond Jubilarians celebrated 70 years in religious life with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They gathered in the Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 8, 2019, for a liturgy of thanksgiving.

They entered the BVM congregation on Sept. 8, 1949. They professed first vows on March 19, 1950, and final vows on July 16, 1957.



Ramona (Simone) Barwick, BVM was born in Milwaukee. She ministered at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, as food service coordinator, bookstore director, and post office

manager. She was an elementary teacher at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Chicago; St. Anthony in Davenport and St. Patrick in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Ramona recently retired as postmistress of the Barwick-Eppel Mail Center at Clarke that was named in part in honor of her more than 50 years at the campus mail center.

Donard Collins, BVM was born in



Marcus, Iowa. She was an elementary teacher at St. Eugene, St. Tarcissus, Holy Cross, and Blessed Sacrament in Chicago; St. Augustine in Memphis, Tenn.;

Immaculate Conception in Clarksdale, Miss.; Christ the King and St. John in Seattle and St. Pius X in Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; and Epiphany in Sioux City, Iowa. She ministered as a nurse at the Marian Health Center in Sioux City, and at Marian Hall in Dubuque, Iowa. She served the congregation as a member of the Motherhouse administrative team and as a regional representative. She currently volunteers as a member of the BVM Sisters Development Network.



Joyce M. (Petrine) Cox, BVM was born in Butte, Mont. She was an elementary teacher at St. Patrick in Dubuque and St. Francis in Council Bluffs, Iowa; All Hollows in Sacramento, Calif.; St.

Bridget in Chicago; Most Holy Redeemer and St. Thomas Moore in San Francisco, where she also was principal. She served as principal and vice president of student relationships at Bellarmine Preparatory in Tacoma, Wash. She was dean of students at Mundelein College and pastoral associate at St. Symphorosa, in Chicago. For the Archdiocese of Seattle, she ministered as vice-chancellor, vicar for religious, director of interfaith relations, delegate to Catholic Schools, director of spirituality, director for ecumenism, and assistant to the archbishop. She currently volunteers as a member of the BVM Sisters Development Network.



Mary A. Healey, BVM was born in Chicago. She was an elementary teacher in Illinois at St. Gilbert in Grayslake, St. Dorothy and St. Sylvester in Chicago, and Sacred Heart and Jordan Catholic

in Rock Island; in Iowa at Sacred Heart in Manly, Corpus Christi in Fort Dodge, St. Mary in Emmetsburg, and St. Anthony in Dubuque; and in New York at Our Lady of Loretto in Hempstead. She was the director of personnel and payroll services at Clarke University in Dubuque, business manager for *The Chicago Catholic* newspaper, and treasurer of Wright Hall, a BVM retirement home in Chicago.



Mary Anne (Anne Michail) Lynch was born in St. Louis. She was an elementary teacher in Chicago at Our Lady Help of Christians, and in California at St. Brendan in Los Angeles and St.

Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood. She was a secondary teacher at Mater Dei in Santa Ana, Calif.; Holy Angels Academy in Milwaukee; and Xavier in St. Louis. She worked as a quality control specialist for Aid to Families with Dependent Children/Health Education & Welfare and as a hearing analyst for the Office of Hearing & Appeals, both in Chicago. She served as chaplain at the University of Chicago Medical Center and at the Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill.



Dolores Marie McHugh, BVM was born in Ambridge, Pa. She served as congregational president from 1992 to 2000 and first vice president from 1984 to 1992. She also served the

congregation as a pastoral care coordinator at Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa. She was the superintendent of schools and educational coordinator and consultant for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. She was an elementary teacher at Presentation in Chicago; Incarnation and Holy Family in Glendale, Calif.; and St. Catherine in Kansas City, Mo., where she also was principal.



Mary Jeanne (John Edward) Stopper, BVM was born in Los Angeles. She was an elementary teacher at Presentation in Chicago; St. Robert Bellarmine in Burbank, Calif.; St. Agnes and St.

Francis Xavier, Phoenix; and St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood, Calif., where she also was principal. She ministered as a high school English teacher, office staff, and volunteer at Holy Family, Glendale, Calif.

Just a Pinch

To read more about this year's jubilarians, send a special message, or to watch the celebration video, visit: bvmsisters.org/jubilarians-19.



Immigrant Prayer Service

Dubuque Area Catholic Sisters held a prayer service for immigrant children on July 18 at Mount St. Francis Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa.

The prayer was held in solidarity with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and other Catholic organizations and religious congregations who sponsored a national day of action in Washington on that same day, as a call to end the mistreatment of immigrant children and families. Sister Nancy Miller, OSF, social justice coordinator for the BVM Sisters and Dubuque Franciscans says, "We have seen the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters, especially children, and invite all to join us in praying to end their inhumane treatment."

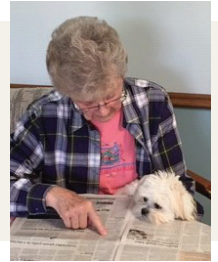
Human Trafficking Awareness

100+ Women Who Care Dubuque presented a check for \$18,100 to the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking & Slavery. The money will be used to create awareness of human trafficking among junior and senior high school students in the Dubuque Community Schools District and the Holy Family System. The funds will also be used to bring the film "I Am Still Here" to Dubuque theaters to educate and create awareness of the trafficking of children.



Just a Pinch

BVM Joan (Ramone Mary) Lingen and Annie stay current on BVMs in the news! To read more about BVM Sisters, visit: bvmsisters.org/news.



Mission Talks

BVMs Mary Jean (St. Christopher) Ferry (I.), Judy (Eugene Mary) Callahan, Helen (Edith) Wolkerstorfer, and Roberta (Caritas) White accepted the invitation to give mission talks in multiple parishes in the Dubuque Archdiocese in June and July. Through their efforts, they shared with parishioners the BVM missions in Ghana and Ecuador, scholarship programs, and Ministry Partner and Local Needs funds. Each talk featured a "mission box" of samples of creations by the Knitwits and Cut-up groups at Mount Carmel, who make clothing, toys, and other items for those in need.

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

BVM Kindness Rocks Found, Hidden Again

Kindness Rocks painted by Mount Carmel sisters are spreading smiles near and far. Sisters painted words of encouragement and inspiration on rocks, and spread them throughout the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Some of the messages read: "Love," "Hope in tomorrow," and "You are not alone." People who find a rock can leave it, share it, or keep it. Callie Clark shares on Facebook that her son "Evan, age 1, found 'Smile' at the arboretum—and he definitely smiled! He wouldn't put it down, carried it all over the Arboretum!" Another rock, with the message "Joy" was also found at the arboretum and is now hidden in Iowa City, Iowa.



If you find a Kindness Rock with #bvmsisters, let us know on [Facebook.com/bvmsisters](https://www.facebook.com/bvmsisters).

▶ Watch the story: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfavof6>.

Working Together to Make a Difference



Champions for Change Raises Money for Alzheimer's Research

The Working Unitedly (WU) committee at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, held its fourth annual "Champions for Change" collection to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. The event helps to support Alzheimer's research, raise awareness of the disease, and promote the upcoming Alzheimer's Association Walk in Dubuque in September.

As in past years, 10 teams joined in the fun-filled competition for 11 days. Staff and sisters sported ribbons with their team's colors as they emptied their pockets, wallets, and piggy banks of excess change, vying for first place. The competition ended with a mini-walk as all teams joined together as team purple.

Staff and sisters met their goal of \$10,000 through the collection and other fundraising events. The BVM congregation contributed \$15,000, for a grand total of \$25,000.



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



Donations Sent to the Border

A donation drive for Laredo, Texas, resulted in 100 boxes of supplies as well as nearly \$3,200 in financial support being sent to those in need at the border. Among the items collected by BVM sisters, associates, and staff in July were belts, flip flops, diapers, backpacks, toothbrushes, shoestrings, and coloring books.

"Thank you for your partnership in helping bring awareness to this crisis at the border . . . You were a significant part of making this drive a success," wrote Tracy Morrison, of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Bowling for Boys & Girls Club

BVM sisters, staff, associates, and their families raised \$765 for the Boys & Girls Club of Dubuque, Iowa, during a bowling tournament June 18.

"Thank you for your generous gift," wrote Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Brian Meyer. "It will have a tremendous impact on the children and programs at the club. Your kindness and generosity will allow us to continue to serve some of the most at-risk youth of our community in a safe, friendly, and caring atmosphere."



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



Marilyn Thomas, BVM
April 11, 1916–June 5, 2019

Marilyn taught and ministered in Davenport and Dubuque, Iowa.

"Throughout the years, however, most of us remember her for her gift of music and organist for Mount Carmel. She thrived on playing liturgical music as well as music for Benediction, novenas, and Marian devotions. She was more than just a pianist or organist, she was an accompanist, a talent that not every pianist or organist possesses."
(Eulogy)

In Memoriam

Please pray for the BVM sisters who have died
April 2019–August 2019.



**Mary Therese (Marcina)
Freymann, BVM**

Dec. 11, 1934–June 18, 2019

Mary Therese taught at Emmetsburg, Iowa; Chicago, Grayslake, and Maywood, Ill.

“Mary Therese believed that inner city school students deserved an education rich in technology as much as the wealthier schools. She referred to this as the digital divide. She also believed that teachers needed to learn the technology as well and set out to teach them. Mary Therese achieved these advances in technology through grants and help from organizations such as Big Shoulders. Some people suffer martyrdom in pursuit of justice; Mary Therese suffered through grant writing.”
(Eulogy)



**Eileen (Rose Francis)
Anglim, BVM**

Sept. 15, 1930–July 21, 2019

Eileen taught or ministered in Phoenix, Ariz.; Los Angeles; Waucoma, Iowa; Chicago; and Kansas City, Mo.

“She described herself as tenacious, persistent, and persevering. Eileen delighted in reading, listening to music, and traveling the United States and Europe. Eileen loved walking, especially in the many nearby parks and trails when she lived in California. She immensely enjoyed shopping and did so often, but always waited for the best deal before making a purchase. Italian Murano earrings were her favorite accessory; she had matching ones for all her blouses.”
(Eulogy)



**Patricia (Danella)
Robinson, BVM**

April 5, 1932–Aug. 7, 2019

Patricia taught in Des Moines, Iowa; Chicago and Mundelein, Ill.; Butte, Mont.; Lincoln, Neb.; and Notre Dame and Rensselaer, Ind.

“Pat was a fun-loving person who delighted in life. Even during times of sadness and illness, she was upbeat, filled with hope and joy. She was so approachable that conversations with her were easy and delightful. She had a way with words that could make people laugh, no matter how difficult the day.”
(Eulogy)



**Jeanne F. (Chabanel)
Fielding, BVM**

Sept. 5, 1921–Aug. 24, 2019

Jeanne taught or ministered in Emmetsburg, Iowa; Hempstead, N.Y.; and Chicago.

“I was thinking of happiness and feeling slightly sorry for myself [as] I was looking at my early losses,” Jeanne wrote. ‘I thought of the life of our Divine Lord . . . Real happiness comes from love [and] love is a virtue [that] gives us a share in the life of God. So each time we bring happiness into another person’s life, we give them a share in the life of God.’ This is what Jeanne strived to do in her own unique manner.”
(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



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Sister Jean: Celebrating a Century

Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM, known as Sister Jean, celebrated her 100th birthday in August. The Loyola University Chicago basketball team chaplain gained international fame in 2018 when the team made it to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Final Four. BVMs joined the Mundelein College Alumnae Board for a special birthday Mass at St. James Chapel, followed by a luncheon at the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership. The gathering also included the ribbon cutting of *A Century of Sister Jean* exhibit in Loyola University Museum of Art.

Joining in on the fun, BVMs at Mount Carmel serenaded Jean Dolores with a "Happy Birthday" social media video, and Chicago BVMs and associates celebrated with a birthday luncheon.



Photo by Andrea Raila
Mundelein graduate

“In order to have an impact on people, we have to be happy with ourselves. Just be kind. Wake and be joyful.”

—Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM



Photo by Lukas Keaproun
Loyola University Chicago