Salt

Forming Relationships by touching hearts
“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.”

—Shannon L. Alder

goodreads.com

This advice by popular author Shannon L. Alder exquisitely captures the theme of this issue of Salt magazine. BVMs are all about hearts, not tombstones!

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

Stories about the BVM Disaster Fund, BVM Marie Greaney’s 67-year history of giving blood, and the Mount Carmel Knit Wits provide glimpses of new and creative ways in which BVMs and their partners keep the BVM mission vital. As our authors illustrate, the BVM legacy of relationship-building, meeting critical needs, and sharing the congregation’s blessings continues to be written on the hearts and etched into the minds of others.

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

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

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

Dear readers, we are truly blessed by your prayers, messages of care, and financial gifts. You, too, etch your legacy in minds and hearts by partnering with us to serve others. We are grateful.
Mission Statement: The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a community of Catholic women religious who, in response to a personal call from God, have chosen a vowed life of prayer, ministry, and community. BVMs express their mission of being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in service to God’s people through their core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice.

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

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
March 2020
8–13 Loretto Community NGO Delegation to the Annual Commission on the Status of Women, New York
April 2020
14–19 2020 Congregational Assembly Dubuque, Iowa
17–20 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Washington, D.C.
   26 Immaculata HS Alumnae Luncheon Niles, Ill.
   26 St. Mary HS Alumnae Luncheon Lombard, Ill.
May 2020
14 Great Give Day
17 Memorial Mass, Mount Carmel Dubuque, Iowa
July 2020
18 Silver Jubilee Celebration Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa
26 Installation of New Leadership Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa
26 Set of 1960, 60th Celebration Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

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

BVM Perspective Annual Report 2018–2019

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On the cover: In this issue of Salt, read how BVMs leave their legacy on hearts, not tombstones, to paraphrase Shannon L. Alder as quoted in “Seasoning.” Writers explore how BVMs continue to educate, as seen through the eyes of Gannon Scholars; how they touch others’ lives by giving blood; how they help preserve and share the history of women leaders; how they inspire others to experience another culture; and how they prepare to share their home through Mount Carmel Bluffs.
The Gannon Scholars Program, a jewel of the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership at Loyola University Chicago (LUC), is a progressive four-year program that engages students in leadership, service, and research.

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

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

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

Juana, from Chicago, is a biology major on a pre-medicine school track. She is currently engaged in a two-year research project focused on the socio-emotional challenges facing undocumented women in the United States.

Emily, from Avon, Ohio, is one of the first students in the School of Communication’s new creative advertising major and is the firm director of Inigo Communication, Loyola’s unique student-run communications agency.

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

by Mary Fran McLaughlin, BVM

Gannon Scholars Learn to Lead

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

Photos provided by Loyola University Chicago.
Scholars in Many Fields

This year, 37 women are enrolled as Gannon Scholars: six are first-generation college students and 14 are women of color. In the spring of 2019, their median GPA was 3.92, and 14 participate in the interdisciplinary and one in the business honors program. Their majors represent 26 areas of study.

The $8,000 Gannon scholarships are awarded annually to incoming first-year students and are renewable for three additional years based on successful participation. More than 1,200 applications are received annually for 10 places!

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

Gannon sophomore Sarah Lehmann, a psychology major from Rapid City, S.D., says she was feeling scared and alone before the interview, where she experienced, with great relief, “unconditional love and care.”

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

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

Research Draws Scholars

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

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

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

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

As it moves into the future, the Gannon Center will extend its influence beyond Mundelein College, Loyola University Chicago, and the United States to inspire women throughout the world...” —Ann Ida Gannon, BVM 2009

Encouragement Sustains Studies

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

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

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

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

Her research explores the health care and professional and leadership skills.

Program Provides a Sense of Belonging

Valeria Monreal, first-year Gannon Scholar from Chicago studying biomedical engineering, is looking forward to a career in stem cell research.

Her strong commitment and drive to keep up with her challenging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) classes, including her first physics class, indicates potential academic achievement and success.

She is already involved in several student organizations on campus, including Engineers for Social Justice and the Latin American Student Association.

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

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

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

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

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

About the author: Mary Fran (Virginia Mary) McLaughlin, BVM is enjoying retirement in Chicago and is a board member at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep, a Cristo Rey School in the Austin neighborhood.
Mundelein College, founded in Chicago by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1929, became part of Loyola University Chicago in June 1991 with the signing of the memorandum of agreement by the chairs of the respective board of trustees of each school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Ann Ida Gannon
- Carol Frances Jegen
- Mary Christine (Christophil) Athans
- Anne E. (Mary Anne David) Carr
- Irma Corcoran
- Ann Credidio
- Joan Frances Crowley
- Mary (Donatus) DeCock
- Blanche Marie Gallagher
- Mary Patricia (St. Thomas) Haley
- Ann (St. Remi) Harrington
- Mary Anne (Bernarde Marie) Hoope
- Barbara (George Mary) Kutchera
- Catherine “Katie” (St. Thoma) McHugh
- Jean Dolores Schmidt
- Margaret (Crescentia) Thornton
- Carolyn (Lester) Farrell

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

Anniversaries are significant markers in life:

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

Members of PWAA send care packages to prisoners of war in Poland during World War II, Circa 1940. Photo courtesy of the Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.
When Disaster Strikes, BVMs ‘Attend to Those in Need’

by Kate Hendel, BVM

In the autumn of 1886, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary living on the prairie suffered the loss of the hogs—clearly a tragedy as they were “dependent on the money from the sale of the hogs to get them through the winter.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just a Pinch

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

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Seaman Erik Villa Rodriguez tinyurl.com/tsn4oq8.
This year there will be a dramatic shift in the trajectory of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary story.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This resonates deeply with the BVM mission of service through ministries chosen in the spirit of the BVM
Constitutions which call the sisters to live the Gospel of Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mount Carmel Bluffs Reveals Logo

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

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

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

The motion of the logo is designed to reflect an openness that is both welcoming and relational to all future residents. The paths lead to the future signifying a new beginning and a continued legacy of the BVM Sisters.

Follow Mount Carmel Bluffs
Facebook: facebook.com/mount-carmel-bluffs
Website: mountcarmelbluffs.org

Mount Carmel Bluffs: Construction Update

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

The construction crew continues with excavation and pouring of foundations as framework begins.
Marie Greaney, BVM has given blood since she was in the novitiate at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

“I know it saves lives. It doesn’t hurt, and you can help people.”

Giving the Gift of Life, Affirming Life in Ministries

by Margaret “Peggy” Geraghty, BVM

Marie (David Therese) Greaney, BVM celebrated her 87th birthday by donating blood, something she has done often over the past 67 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A medical scenario has been a familiar one for Marie, who has devoted much of her life to pastoral care at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill.

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

Pastoral care ministry began in Illinois

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

In 1982 she began her pastoral work at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Park, Ill., where she continued to minister for 21 years. In her role, she worked as chaplain in various areas of patient care.
For 11 years Marie was the director of pastoral services at Palos Community, the first woman to serve in that position. As director, her ministry expanded as she was instrumental in opening the hospital’s first hospice center and establishing cancer support groups, as well as support groups for people dealing with infant death and miscarriage.

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

Marie grew up in Chicago and after entering the BVMs, spent her early teaching years in primary education in Colorado, Iowa, Montana, and Chicago. She had an early experience of working with the elderly and learning about aging on her first mission at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines, Iowa, where she had the opportunity to work with older sisters. She feels like her early success and joy in this experience prepared her for the ministry of pastoral care that she embraced so wholeheartedly later in her ministry.

**Keeping connected**

Marie is a member of the Sisters Development Network, which connects BVMs with benefactors. It is a wonderful way to get to know donors, she says.

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

She continues to make other connections, too.

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

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

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

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

**Just a Pinch**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**BVM Birthdays**

Like us on Facebook to follow our weekly posts and find out whose birthday it is!

[facebook.com/bvmsisters](http://facebook.com/bvmsisters)
Volunteer service group members accompany a WBC social worker on a visit to the homes of families who are new to the center.

Travelers Share Insights, Adventures, Experiences From Ecuador
by Mary Glindinning

It was a journey to the middle of the world when two groups took weeklong immersion trips to Quito, Ecuador, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

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

“WBC makes a difference,” says Mary Ann Conzett. “Providing now for girls,
boys, and families—they now have security, safety, education, nourishment, friendship, and family stability. What a gift, all from small steps.”

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

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

But it is more than a school. The whole family is involved with programs and workshops to break the cycle of poverty by learning skills, trades, and money management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“These homes were small and not built very well at all,” says Debi Marek. “I was amazed at the courage, faith, and hope the mothers had. They took what they had and made it work. Everything the parents did they did so their children could have a better life and be happy.”

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

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

“At one point we even had an assembly line going where everyone would hand off the buckets filled with cement to the next person, and then the last person would dump it in a huge pile where the base of the house was to be made,” says Liam. Even though he didn’t think it seemed like much work was accomplished, “I still feel like we were able to give the family a big helping hand considering how much longer it would have taken them to do it all by themselves.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Service Trip Reflections: tinyurl.com/vtk5rhl.
Cultural Immersion Trip Reflections: tinyurl.com/s48jjj.

About the author: Mary Glindinning is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.
“All you need to know is that the future is wide open and you are about to create it by what you do.”
—Pema Chodron

There is no denying the excitement in the air as we think about 2020. When we look to the year ahead and consider all the change coming within the congregation, within the walls of Mount Carmel, throughout the United States and the world, it’s easy to get wrapped up in something that has yet to happen, all the while missing the moment we are in.

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

There is a practice in mindfulness called S.T.O.P., and utilizing this throughout the day can lower our stress and enable us to create the space needed to be present.

S = Stop. Take a break from what you are doing and pause.

T = Take a couple breaths. This could be for a few seconds or a few minutes. Notice the air coming in and notice the air going out.

O = Observe the moment as it is. Observe what you are experiencing in this moment physically, mentally, and emotionally. Just notice, without judging it as good or bad.

P = Proceed. Proceed with a sense of gentleness and a fresh perspective of how you are receiving this moment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We Remember Our Associates

Georg Ek
Jan. 23, 1930–Dec. 15, 2019

Mary Elizabeth Luckey Maglione
Feb. 1, 1928–Dec. 24, 2019
Mary Christine (Christophil) Athans, BVM
April 7, 1932–Dec. 7, 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ernestina Molinari, BVM

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

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

“She totally engaged with people, making conversations with her easy and comfortable manner. Ernestina was always true to herself, even when she bubbled up outside conventional lines. She truly knew the meaning of ‘being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in God’s steadfast love.’” (Eulogy)
A Warm Feeling: BVMs Make Hats and Scarves to Keep People Warm in Winter

It all started with a gift and became the gift that keeps on giving.
Several years ago, BVM Isidora Lorentz’ family gave her looms and yarn, and she in turn gave it to the activities department.
And the Knit Wits were born. Since then, boxes of hats and scarves have left Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, and gone to children and adults to help keep them warm.
“It’s not charity. It’s love,” said Catherine Dominick, BVM, who makes four or five hats a week. “I know in my heart that some person is going to be able to keep warm during the winter, their head at least. That gives me so much joy.”
She makes the hats in her room while she watches television. “I wanted something to do besides sit there and twiddle my thumbs. I can’t go out and feed somebody. But we’re to clothe the naked, and that’s what we’re trying to do,” Catherine says.
This year, the Mount Carmel Knit Wits sent 347 hats for kids to be distributed by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dubuque County, along with 56 scarves that Alice Kerker, BVM hand-knit. They also sent 45 men’s hats to the Dubuque Rescue Mission, and 49 babies’ hats to Birth Right.

Virginia Piecuch (l.) and Helen Gabel celebrated 25 years as BVM associates in December with sisters, associates, family and friends in Chicago.
“Being an associate of the BVMs for 25 years means being in a growth relationship with wonderful, loving, believing, strong women,” Virginia says.
When she was first invited to “to spend an afternoon with BVM friends, I thought it would be a nice way to meet new people and spend a few hours,” Helen says. “Little did I know! That ‘nice’ afternoon turned out to be one of the best things I have done in my life. The relationships I have formed, the friends I have made, turned my life upside down.”
The 25-year celebration was the culmination of all those years of friendship and love, Helen says.

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

BVMs joined in prayer and solidarity with the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Central American University Massacre.
SOA is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers whose graduates have committed unspeakable acts of violence.

What’s new on the web?

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

Recent stories:
• BVM Christmas Service Tradition Lives On at Dowling HS
• More Than a Meal: Servers and Diners Feel Nourished
• Mount Carmel Food, Cash Donations Timely, Needed
• Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign Buys Wigs for Patients
Donor Profile:  
Families Share Sister, Memories, and Spiritual Strength  
by Mary Glindinning

The way her relatives see it, Jean

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

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

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

Relatives of deceased sisters are invited to Memorial Masses, and donors are invited to Benefactor Masses. “We go for Aunt Gen, obviously. But there’s a certain peace you feel when you go to Dubuque. It’s hopeful and prayerful. It’s a very holy place.”

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

Close Family Ties

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

When his father was ill and could no longer work, his aunt was a supportive sounding board. “My mother was a brilliant woman, but had no occupation.” Aunt Gen told her she could be a teacher, and helped her plan how to do it. Jeff’s mother, Jeane Smoller, went on to teach for more than 35 years.

Families Share Sister continued on p. 22.
Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

We appreciate your understanding as we make every effort to recognize all contributions and to protect the privacy of donors who requested to remain anonymous. We are also aware that mistakes happen. If you notice that your name is omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly identified, please accept our sincere apologies and advise the Office of Development of the inaccuracy.

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

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

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

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

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

With deep gratitude,

Ann E. Sweeney
Director of Development and Grant Administrator

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

All financial information in this report has been reviewed by Eide Bailly LLP.
Welcome New Members!

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

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

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

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

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

Being part of the SDN will “give me a personal chance to thank the people who support our ministries and community and develop a relationship with them through writing, technology, or phone,” says Diane (Malia) Rapozo, BVM. “Keeping in touch will let our supporters know how much we appreciate their generosity and care for the sisters who have been a part of their lives. I consider being a part of the SDN a privilege and an honor.”
When his father died, “Aunt Gen just stepped in and took over the funeral, emotionally, spiritually, and logistically” at a time when his mother needed her, Jeff says.

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

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

But she was not always at a distance.

Vacation Visits

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

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

“Aunt Gen and her three sisters Rose, Jeane (my grandma), and Sophie loved to take trips to the casinos in Wisconsin like Ho Chunk, but in particular, they loved going to Vegas,” said Marian Shah, a grand-niece. “Four middle-aged and later elderly women, sitting around the gaming table or at the slots, having the time of their lives.”

Marian said the sisters shared good-natured bickering and bantering.

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

“She was very close to all the nieces and nephews. It’s like each was the favorite one. She had that ability that if
As he looks back over his life, Gerald Hoeger is thankful for something that began in 1938: his Catholic school education.

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

The Dubuque Franciscans taught at St. Joseph's Parochial School in Garnavillo, Iowa, about 50 miles north of Dubuque, Iowa. The lessons he learned at school and home reinforced each other, as his parents were "strong Catholics." As a farmer, some years were more plentiful in yield and profit than others. When he could afford to help, he did.

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

Gratitude for Catholic Education Lasts a Lifetime
by Mary Glindinning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I pray for Catholic sisters," he says.

About the author: Mary Glindinning is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.
The changing colors of leaves on the trees coincided with the annual Benefactor Masses. More than 70 people attended a Mass and reception at the Felician Sisters Convent in Chicago on Oct. 27. More than 175 attended a Mass and meal at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa on Nov. 3.

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

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

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

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

—Ashley Kurt

2018–2019 Project Based Fundraising Outcomes

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

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

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

Masses for Our Benefactors

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday on Nov. 27, 2018, focused on the theme “Because of You” with snippets of the many ways contributions from our donors helped the BVM Sisters to continue their mission consistent with core values of charity, education, freedom, and justice.

Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement created in 2012 with a simple idea to dedicate a day that encourages people to donate to one or more charitable organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Total Raised—$29,619

Watch the video: youtube/eO7EzzECyho.
Memorial Mass

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 15, 2018–April 16, 2019

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

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

To read a sister’s obituary or watch her funeral Mass, visit: bvmsisters.org/obituaries.

The Heart of BVM

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

Great Give Day

Great Give Day was on May 9, 2019. This 24-hour online giving day was established by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in 2014 to celebrate and support local non-profit organizations and build a stronger community.

Total Raised—$33,277

Birdies for Charity

Birdies for Charity is part of the annual PGA John Deere Classic. The golf tournament’s program enables companies, foundations, and individuals to pledge to a charity or charities of their choice either a minimum of one cent for each birdie recorded at the tournament or in lump sum donations.

Total Raised—$61,730
Thank you for your generous support and friendship.

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

Areas of Support

BVM Endowed Scholarship Fund $213,436

The BVM Endowed Scholarship fund honors the lifelong service of the hundreds of BVMs who staffed our schools, beginning in Philadelphia in 1833. This project is a way to continue the BVM mission of education.

BVM Endowed Scholarship Recipient
St. Thomas the Apostle ES
Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.:

“We are so grateful to the Sisters of Charity, BVM for their incredible support of the mission they started at St. Thomas the Apostle School nearly 70 years ago . . . . We look forward to providing more students with the precious gift of Catholic education in years to come—thanks to the bountiful gift of endowment entrusted to us.”

—Principal Valerie Serpe

“By these means with all my heart I want to say thank you for the kindness and good heart of helping my son Angel. It has been for me a great blessing since we are low-income and it is difficult to meet some requirements to obtain a Catholic education.”

—Angel’s Mother, Rosa De Leon

Learn more about BVM Endowed Scholarships: tinyurl.com/yew7wfbu.

Unrestricted Support $3,951,410

Donor Restricted Support $266,425

Mission and Ministry Endowment $206,063

BVM Support Fund $404,121

8,353 Total number of gifts

$5,041,455 Total amount given (includes bequests)

64 Total number of bequests

$3,448,708 Total amount received
Where do our donors live?

- **500 or more** (3 States)
- **100–499** (5 States)
- **Fewer than 100** (42 States plus Puerto Rico)
- **Mount Carmel**

Who are our donors?

- **Alumni**: 2,300
- **Friends**: 887
- **Family**: 769
- **Other**: 443
- **Former BVMs**: 243
- **BVM Associates**: 92

- **Unique donors**: 4,321
- **New donors**: 457
- **Monthly donors**: 137

- **Average Age**: 77
- **Youngest**: 35
- **Oldest**: 105

- **Female**: 72%
- **Male**: 25%
- **Unknown**: 3%
BVM Monthly Partners

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

Names in bold are new members.


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

Mary Frances Clarke Society

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

Names in bold are new members.

$250,000 and more

$100,000 to $249,999
Anonymous (6)  Joseph and Patricia Barta  Clara Bendel Estate  Helen Brach Foundation  Mary Bradley Trust  Catherine Cashman Estate  Cathedral High School Alumni Association
Mary Frances Clarke Society continued.

Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus
† Margaret Coffey
† Dorothy Colucci Estate
Conlon Construction Company
Paul and † Mary Conover
Jane Delaney
† Frances Rose Dewey Trust
Edward Dolan
† Margaret Dorcey Trust
George Dunne Estate
Bernice Ebinger
† Mary Madeline Ebinger Estate
Mary Flynn Estate
† Virginia C Forte Charitable Fund
Bernadine Foster
† Elizabeth Gaul
† Catherine Geary Estate
† Maurice Giustine Estate
Paul Gordon
† Catherine Halligan Trust
John Hansman Estate
Louise Healy Estate
Dolores Hope
Lillian Horacek
† Margaret Izzo Trust
† Dorothy Janssen Estate
Clifford Julius Estate
Barbara June
Paula Kelly
† Loretto Kendall
† Patricia Kommer
† Molly Kurtz
† Elizabeth Ann Lavaty Estate
† Mary Lawlis
† Loretta Liika
† Margaret Malloy Estate
† Grace Mark
† Reverend James McAlpin
† Thomas McHale Trust
Alice McMahan Estate
† Mary Meaney Estate
Muriel and Ronald Mendonca
† Marie Miske Estate
Jean Monforti Estate
Arthur Naes Estate
K † Angela O’Donnell Estate
Thomas and Winnie O’Halloran
† Mary O’Riordain
Virginia Payant
† Mary Quattrero Estate
Kathleen Lally Quilter
Kenneth Rittenmeyer Estate
Agnes Rocca Estate
Doretta Roche
Saint Jude Catholic Worker
Saint Paul HS Alumnae Association
San Francisco
Ada Schupp Foundation
† Mary Justine Shel Estate
Joanne Stanislawski
† Marie Townsell
Nancy Van Anne
† Reverend Patrick Walsh
Helen Walters Estate
Dorothy Watson
Cho and Margaret Wu
Audrey Zywicki
$50,000 to $99,999
Anonymous (6)
† Argentina Andoni Estate
† Carol Ann Auclair
† June and † Charles Bellingham Estate
Maribeth and James Benham
† Catherine Blake Estate
† Adelaide Brennan
† Frances Bussanamas
† Reverend Monsignor John Cardiff
The Carrigan Charitable Trust
Annabel Christiansen
† Victor Colucci Estate
† Margaret Croke Estate
Lemoyne Decker Estate
Mary Devitt
Loretta Duggan
Elizabeth Matulka Dustman
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation
† Reverend Richard Feller
† Patricia Finn
† Urban Fleege Estate
† James Gearen
† Catherine Gibson
† Dorothy Glancy Estate
† John Hanley Estate
† Marian Harding Estate
† Monsignor Donald Heineman
† Patricia Holsten
Jeanne Horan
Robert Huot
Evangeline Jansen Estate
John Deere Foundation
Marguerite Karnick
Winifred Kelly Estate
Donna and Wayne Kern
Madeleine Kinney Estate
Richard Kreitzberg
Mary Adele and John Krolakowski
† Harold Kutchera Trust
† Anna Leeney Estate
Donald and Susan Linch
Peter Lococo
Kathryn Lynch Estate
† Mary C Mackin
† M Winifred Mahoney Estate
† Charles Malone Estate
Mercedes McCambridge
Timothy and Liana McCormick
† Naola McDermott
† Donald McElenery
MidWestOne Bank
† Mary B Miller Estate
Genevieve Moran Estate
Marguerite Mullin
James Normanly Estate
† Lydia O’Connor
Joseph O’Hare III
† Mary Ann Peterson
† Rose Marie Princ
† Joe Rauch Estate
† Frances Regan Estate
† Mary Rhomberg
† Joan Rockwell
Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae, Dubuque Chapter
† Rose Schafer Estate
Marion Schmidt Trust
† Dorothy Schumacher
Nancy and Dennis Scantlon
† Dorothy Stegmaier
† Margaret Tiedemann Estate
Joanne Twomey
† Wilfred and † Mary Jane Von Der Ahe Estate
† Connor Walsh and Shirley Halvorsen
† Marie Walsh Estate
† Betty Klein Whitted
† Thomas Wren Estate
$25,000 to $49,999
Anonymous (7)
† Lois Anderson
Richard and Mary Anderson
Tom Anzalone
† Mary Z Babyar Estate
† Stuart and † Cathy Bintner
† Alice Bizulis Estate
† James Blaine Estate
† Bernice Blinker Estate
† Mary Boden Estate
† Wayne Braig Estate
† Elmer Brennan
Burke Family Foundation
Margaret Caddick
† Christopher Calt
Mary Cannon and † William Ryan Drew
Susan Carlson
† Reverend Leo Francis Carton Trust
† Mary Therese and † Lawrence Casey
† Ann Charvat Estate
Ann and Michael Ciresi
† Catherine Coffey Estate
† Geraldine Connors Estate
Convalescent Equipment and Supply Company
Veronica and Matthew Cook
Cecilia Cooper
Michael Crowley Sr
† Marie D’Amore
Nancy and William Davidson
Monica Devreux and Chris Columbus
Mary and Terry Dillon
† Santa and † Thomas DiMarco
† Beatrice Dormedy Estate
Thomas W Dower Foundation
Mary McDonald Downes
Dubuque Bank and Trust Company
Jerome and Joan Duffy
Meneve Dunham

Ways to Support the Sisters of Charity, BVM

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

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

IRA/Retirement Asset Gifts
Donors who qualify can make gifts using their individual retirement accounts. Additional tax benefits may be available.

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

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

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

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Mary Frances Clarke Society continued.

Virginia Durr
Marilyn and Donald Duwelius
Catherine and Robert Everhart
Eleanor and Nickolas Fesunoff
Edward Feuerbacher
Virginia Rose Forte
Mary Clarke Society continued.

Mary O’Leary Estate
Marilorraine O’Leary
Jeanette and Marie and Florence Moffett Estate
Margaret McEvoy Estate
John McAloon
James Joseph Lynch Estate
Rosemary and Ursula Healy Lawson Estate
Eugene Bruckert
Kathleen Burke
Michael and Monica Caffarella
Joseph and Sandra Cain
Loretta Campbell
Yvonne Cardy
Mabel Carmody
Mary Claire Casey
Irma Cashman Estate
Frances Cashman Trust
Robert Caulfield
Gladyis Chapman
Ruth Charles
Mary Catherine Chezik Estate
Reverend H Robert Clark
Lawrence and Pamela Lennon
Daniel Clyne
William L Coffey Jr Estate
Madeline Cohn Estate
Dorothy Collins
Catherine Condon
Kathryn Condon
Steve and Loretta Conlon
Mary Conner Estate
Daniel Connolly
Reverend Edward Connolly
Reverend Edward Connors Trust
Robert Conway Estate
Frances and Conrad Cook
Jayne Copps
Julia Corby
Edward Cosgrove
Lorraine Cote
Phyllis Cozzola
Teresa Crawford
Priscilla Crowe Estate
Reverend Ambrose Cunningham
Margaret Curtin and James Wilder
Sally Davenport
Rose Marie Davidsaver
Frances Dawson Estate
Vincent and Mary DeBow
Jerry Snider Delaney
Margaret Delaney Trust
Janet Desmond Estate
Frank and Joy Deutmeyer
Margaret Dillon
Dorothy Dingfelder
Diocese of San Jose
Barbara Doan
Patricia and Joseph Dobes
M Maureen Doherty
Richard Dompke
Joseph Doran Estate
Reverend Michael Doyle, OSM
Leo and Norma Drilling
Elena Duarte

$10,000 to $24,999

Anonymous (23)
Mary Adams
Richard and Patricia Albright
Father John Aldera Foundation
Catherine Allen Estate
Margaret Mary Allen Estate
Thomas R Allen Jr Living Trust
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Joan and Thomas Alzana
Joseph Arnenson Estate
Cyrilla and Frank Badia Estate
Bernadette Baraty
Miriam Barry
Helen and M O Bates
Joan and Gene Beak
Leora Beaton
Nancy Beatty
Raquel Bech and Larry Martin
Norbert Behr Estate
Alfred and Rita Belluomini
Mary Louis Bencomo
Rosemary Berg Estate
Harold Berneman Estate
Hylda Blaske
James Bolan
Rosemary Boland
Theodora Bostick
Dorothy and Evelyn Bouhan Trust
Glenn Boysen
Helen Brame
Louis Brizzolara
George Broell
Patricia and John Brow
Eugene Bruckert
Kathleen Burke
Michael and Monica Caffarella
Joseph and Sandra Cain
Loretta Campbell
Yvonne Cardy
Mabel Carmody
Mary Claire Casey
Irma Cashman Estate
Frances Cashman Trust
Robert Caulfield
Gladyis Chapman
Ruth Charles
Mary Catherine Chezik Estate
Reverend H Robert Clark
Lawrence and Pamela Lennon
Daniel Clyne
William L Coffey Jr Estate
Madeline Cohn Estate
Dorothy Collins
Catherine Condon
Kathryn Condon
Steve and Loretta Conlon
Mary Conner Estate
Daniel Connolly
Reverend Edward Connolly
Reverend Edward Connors Trust
Robert Conway Estate
Frances and Conrad Cook
Jayne Copps
Julia Corby
Edward Cosgrove
Lorraine Cote
Phyllis Cozzola
Teresa Crawford
Priscilla Crowe Estate
Reverend Ambrose Cunningham
Margaret Curtin and James Wilder
Sally Davenport
Rose Marie Davidsaver
Frances Dawson Estate
Vincent and Mary DeBow
Jerry Snider Delaney
Margaret Delaney Trust
Janet Desmond Estate
Frank and Joy Deutmeyer
Margaret Dillon
Dorothy Dingfelder
Diocese of San Jose
Barbara Doan
Patricia and Joseph Dobes
M Maureen Doherty
Richard Dompke
Joseph Doran Estate
Reverend Michael Doyle, OSM
Leo and Norma Drilling
Elena Duarte

Joan and Frank Duke
Ellen and Edward Dunn
Shirley Dunnie
Catherine Eberle
Barbara Elfts
Rita Ewalt
John Farrell
Joseph and Jill Farr
James Fehr and Carol Mizer
Peter and Marie Ferry
Judge Edward G Finnegan
Memorial Fund
William and Alison Fitzgerald
L Patricia Fitzmaurice Trust
Iva and Hugh Flaherty
Diane and John Flynn
Joseph and Elsie Flynn
Shirley Ford
Katharine and Robert Forrester
Katherine Forster Estate
Fort Bragg Electric Inc
Rosemary Forte
Alice Fox
Arthur Freas
Ellen Frey
Robert Fryer
Reverend Kevin Gaffey
Gallagher Family Foundation
Martha Garrett
Bernard Garvey
Mary Garzoni
Marie Gath Estate
Margaret and Frank Gebhardt
Dorothy Gehring
Mary Georgan
Mary Therese Gill
Rosemary Giunta
Esther Gliot
Donna and Mike Gomez
Mary Pat Goodwin
Payson Gould
Carol Graser Estate
Reverend Joseph Graves
Lucille and Edward Grennan
Eugene and Peggy Grennan
Eileen Halloran Estate
The Halstead Family
Hanass Oriental Rug Imports
Mary Hardiman-Desmond and Michael Desmond
Mary Ellen Harrison Estate
The Hart Family
Mary Jane Haugh
Evelyn Hayny
Reverend Monsignor John Heaney
Catherine Heinz
Donald Heitert
Virginia and John Heitz
Philip Heles
Dorothy Higgins and Betty Ann McEneer
Mary Hilburn-Forster
Memorial Foundation
Marion Hillabold Estate
Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters
Mary Hoffman
Maureen and Charles Hoffman
Rita and Eugene Hoffmann
Paul and Gina Hoffman
Mark Hogan and Barb Stone-Potter
Donors of Distinction

Frances and Pearl Lukasik Trust Estate
Monsignor Michael Lucid Estate
Adeline LoCoco Trust
Adele Baiocchi LeGere
George Kostakis
Marietta Korak
Walter Knepper Estate
Reverend Thomas Maher
Ron MacDonald and G C Gantner
Mary Maas
Bertha Lucy
Annette and James Lovelace
Sherrill Lousberg
Lands’ End Inc
Paul and Debbie Lambert
Lands’ End Inc
Mary Jo Langer
Desmond LaPlace
Patricia Laraia
Mark and Shirley Larkin
Michelle LaRue
Donna Lavelle
Sophie Dzrzymala Laverty
Denise Lefebvre Estate
Adele Baiocchi LeGere
Marguerite Leoni
Grace Lepard Trust
George Lingen Jr
Adeline LoCoco Trust
Steven and Teresa Loftus
Frances Lohmiller
Sherrill Lousberg
Annette and James Lovelace
Monsignor Michael Lucid Estate
Bertha Lucy
Pearl Lukasik Trust Estate
Frances and Francis Lyne
Timothy Lyne
Mary Maas
Ron MacDonald and G C Gantner
Reverend Thomas Maher

Patrick and Maria Mahoney
Terence Mahoney
Verna Mailander Estate
Naomi Majewski
Virginia and Joseph Mallof Family Fund
Helen Maloney Trust
Barbara Markus Louthan
Bernadette Manning Estate
Adrienne G Mansi
Gustave Manthey
Marilyn and Richard Marks
Harry and Margaret Martens Estate
Janile Martin and James Freeman
Judith and Richard Matlock
Rose and Charles Matt Estate
Susan Matule
Linda and David Matuszak
Judith Mayotte
Ralph and Mary Catherine McCaffrey
Virginia McCarthy
John McCarthy
Patricia McCarthy
Reverend Patrick Pearse
McCarthy Estate
Josanne and Thomas McCarver
Monica McCaulay
Sarah McDermott Estate
John and Virginia McDonagh
Warren McElney
Elise and James McElmeel
Margaret McNerney
Reverend Monsignor Edward McEvoy Estate
John and Mary McHugh
Michael and Kathleen McKibbin
Reverend Monsignor Charles McNamara
Barbara and John McNiff
John McParland
Barbara and Brendan McShane
Veronica McShane Estate
Robert McWade
Mary J McWade Estate
Richard Meeriens Estate
Elizabeth Mengel
Reverend William Menster
Brian and Diane Mertes
Coletta Mertes Estate
Peter and Margot Mestad
Francis Meyer
Carol Michael Trust
Rita Michaels
Virginia Migely and Eugene Migely Jr
Margaret and Eugene Mikkelson
Deborah Miller
Martha and Douglas Miller
Lewis Miller Estate
Anne McGrath Miriani Estate
Dennis Mishler
The Mission Club
Molo Oil Company
Daniel and Katherine Molyneaux
Robert Monfort
Mary Morley
Norine Morrison Estate
Mount Saint Gertrude Alumnae Association
Elizabeth Mueller
Christopher Murphy
and Patrick Weber
Francis Murphy Jr and Janice Murphy
James Murphy
Robert Murphy and Emily Chew
William and Rita Nash
Edward and Patricia Nash
Dorothy Nieland Estate
Mark Niemczyk
Kathleen and Neftali Nieves
Frank and Lois Noonan
Jack and Barbara Norris
John O’Brien Estate
Ethel O’Connor
Mary Alice O’Donnell Estate
Madeline Oei
Mary Jo and Ron Ognar
James O’Grady
Margaret O’Grady Estate
Ann and Charles Olson
Mary Rose O’Malley Estate
Rosemary O’Meara
Virginia O’Meara
Mary Sue and John O’Reilly
Janis Pajdusak Estate
Donald and Kim Parker
Robert Parkinson Jr and Elizabeth Parkinson
Mary Jo Paveza
Marguerite Pearson
Dolores Pencz
Barbara and Robert Perkau
Grace Pertell
Geraldine M Phillips
Helen Pidgeon Estate
Rita Pils
Margaret Ponty
Elizabeth Postell
Power Drive Inc
Projects of the Heart NFP
Margaret Quane Estate
James Quilter
Gerard Quinlan Estate
Antoinette Quinn Estate
Patricia and Robert Quirk
Robert Reder
Reverend Gary Reller
Richard and Dianne Renspie
Ellade Rice
Kristina Richter and Jeff Becker
Patricia Rigg
Michael and Anna Mary Riniker
Michael and Elida Robbins
Eileen Rocap
James Rocap III and Marie Rocap
Francis Rochest Trust
Marjorie Roether
Mary Foster Romig Estate
David Rose Estate
Alexander and D’Lucille Rudolf
Family Fund
Katherine Kehoe Runkle Estate
Irene Ryan
Virginia Kennedy Ryan
Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae
Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Saint Joseph Church
Saint Richard Catholic Church
Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Stephanie Sander
Jacqueline and Maurice Sardi
Ruth Scallon
Kathleen Scanlan Tschida and Victor Tschida
Mary Scarpino
Anne Marie Schaefer
Beth Kaiser Schafer and Robert Schafer
Mona Schoenstrup Estate
Dorothy and Lillian Scholzen
Louise and Jeffrey Srank
Miriam Schuchardt
Thomas and Lou Schulte
Mary Scriven
Robert Seelman
Helen Shafer Estate
Patricia Kennedy Shanahan
Don and Erma Shanklin
Mary Sharbel Estate
Mary Shellenberg
William Sherlock
Marie Shiel-Djouadi
Lawrence Shimkus Estate
Joann Simpson
Janet Sisler
Therese Slowiak
Patrick and Mary Syl
Anna Smith Estate
Elizabeth Smurlo
Joseph Smurlo
Melvin Soberg
James and Diana Spiegel
Jayne and Joseph Spittler
Judy Stark
Patricia Stephenson
Linda and Terence Stevinson
Straka Johnson Architects PC
Barbara Stock
Myra Stratton
Paul Swope Jr and Marie Swope
Mary Syron Estate
Margaret Tadel
William Taylor
Anita Terpstra
Shirley Smitas Thiel
Rosalie Tiedje
Keith Timmons
Margaret Tobin
Maryanne Tondreau Estate
Jean and Kenneth Toth
Eileen Tracy Estate
Lorraine Vantucci
Miss Alice Vaughn Estate
Mary Frances Vergano
Marguerite Verscheden
Reverend Monsignor Robert Vogl
Vivian Walkosz
Jean Wallace
Jocile Walsh
Jeanne Walsh Trust
WeathEngine.com
Patricia Wassell
Bernard and Caroline Wester
William Wetzel
Jane Wetzel Estate
Lynn Whitmore
Mary Wiens
Most Reverend Gerald Wilkerson
Mary and Samuel Winklebleck
Catherine Wohnen
Alice Wolfe
Barbara Yusunas
Ernest Zanaty
Helen Zollmann Estate
Legacy Partners Society
The Legacy Partners Society honors those donors whose commitment and concern for the future of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are demonstrated through their estate plans:

Names in bold are new members.

Anonymous (52)
- John Abbey Estate
- Theresa and Richard Abril
- Mary Adams
- Catherine Allen Estate
- Kathleen Anderson-Knight and Michael Knight
- Mary Ann Annetti Estate
- Carol Ann Auclair
- Mary Sally Aylward
- Mary Z Babiar Estate
- Elena Baca
- Cyrialla and Frank Bajda Estate
- Maryln and Louis Balaban
- Catherine Banville
- Marcella Barda Estate
- Lois and Clarence Barrett
- Lucile Barry Estate
- Mary Josephine Barry Estate
- Nancy Beatty
- Robert Beaulieu Estate
- Dorothy and Fred Becklenberg
- Norbert Behr Estate
- Reverend Monsignor Elmer Behrmann Estate
- June and Charles Bellingham Estate
- Karen Morris Bells and Robert Baker
- Mafalda Benchea
- Clara Bendel Estate
- Rosemary Berg Estate
- Nona and Jeff Bernard
- Harold Berneman Estate
- Angela Hanley Berry
- Diane Berryman
- Stuart and Cathy Bintner
- The Bisenius Family
- John Bisenius
- Alice Bizulis Estate
- Catherine Blaes Estate
- Catherine Blake Estate
- Bernice Blenker Estate
- Jeanne Kaefenstein Bloom Estate
- Mary Boden Estate
- Lorraine Body
- Elizabeth Bonnes Estate
- Dorothy and Evelyn Bouhan Trust
- Margaret Boyd
- Kathleen Boyle
- Rosemary Boyle
- Clara Boyle Estate
- LeVergne Boyle Estate
- Lucy M Brabec Trust
- Wayne Braig Estate
- Kathleen Branigan
- Adelaide Brennan
- Diane Maura Broderick and Jim Russell
- Virginia Broderick Estate
- Florence Brown
- Rita Brown
- Helen Burke Estate
- Florence Busch-Beaudry
- Helen Buysse Estate
- Helen Caffery Estate
- Anna Cagney Estate
- Kevin Cahill Estate
- Joseph Caldwell
- Terrence Callahan Estate
- Mary Callen Trust
- Mary Adele Carlman Trust
- Mary Therese and Lawrence Casey
- Elizabeth Casey Estate
- Catherine Cashman Estate
- Irma Cashman Estate
- Joseph and Patricia Chaput
- Mary Catherine Chezek Estate
- Stephanie Chodera
- John Christensen Estate
- Joan Clark
- John and Bonnie Clark
- Lyle Clemens Estate
- Carolyn Clemens
- Madeline Cohn Estate
- Loretta Colby
- Reverend Edward Collins Estate
- Victor Colucci Estate
- Catherine Condon
- John and Mary Beth Connelly
- Geraldine Connors Estate
- Reverend Edward Connors Trust
- Mary L Connors Trust
- Paul and Mary Conover
- Robert Conway Estate
- Leona Cook
- Veronica and Matthew Cook
- Irene Cook Estate
- Cecilia Cooper
- Rita Corbett
- Maureen Cosgriff
- Ramona Coutre
- Sandra Craig
- Margaret Croke Estate
- Patricia Cronin
- Susan Crook
- Monica B Crotty
- Priscilla Crowe Estate
- Joan Crowley
- Diane and Paul Culhane
- William and Dorothy Cullen Estate
- Margaret and James Culotta
- Reverend Ambrose Cunningham
- Bernard Cunningham
- Helen Cunningham
- Leah Curtin Estate
- Adrienne Curtis
- Harriet Dalley
- Dorothy Dale
- Reverend Monsignor John W Dalton
- Lauretta Flick Daly Trust
- Marie D’Amore
- Dorothy Davis Estate
- Frances Dawson Estate
- Lemoyn Decker Estate
- Louis Dehner Trust
- Patrick Delaney
- Margaret Delaney Trust
- Donna Dening
- Janet Desmond Estate
- Frances Rose Dewey Trust
- Kathleen Dieterle
- Margaret Diffenderffer Estate
- Santa and Thomas DiMarco
- Estelle Dissehoirth
- Mary Geraldine Dolan Estate
- Barbara Donovan
- Laurence Donovan
- Joseph Doran Estate
- Margaret Dorsey Trust
- Beatrice Dormedy Estate
- Mary Kay Dougherty
- Eleanor M Dowling Estate
- Lois Doyle
- Marcella Doyle
- Patricia Doyle
- Catherine Drake Estate
- Leo and Norma Drilling
- Agatha Drilling Estate
- Emma Dry
- Meneve Dunham
- Shirley Dunne
- George Dunne Estate
- Elizabeth Dustman
- Betty Dy
- Cathryn Dye
- Colleen and James Ebsmeyer
- Catherine Eberle
- Bernice Eibinger
- Mary Effinger
- Mary Eisenstein Estate
- Arline Elliott
- Catherine Enderle
- Steven and Diane Enderle
- Florence Endriz Estate
- Rita Ewalt
- Sheila Feeney
- Geraldine Ferring Estate
- Mary Finan Estate
- Michael Finnerty
- Barbara Fischer
- Mary Louise Fischer
- Margarette Carroll Fisher Estate
- Elizabeth Fitting
- Dorothy Fitzgerald Estate
- L Patricia Fitzmaurice Trust
- Louis Fitzpatrick Estate
- Urban Fleegle Estate
- Joseph and Elsie Flynn
- Sharlene and James Flynn
- Mary Flynn Estate
- Shirley Ford
- Charles Forster Estate
- Katharine Forster Estate
- Virginia Rose Forte
- Virginia C Forte Charitable Fund
- Bernadine Foster
- Reverend Robert Foster Estate
- Alice Fox
- Mildred Freese
- Norm and Marabeth Freud
- Mary and Richard Friedrich
- Robert Fryer
- Rosemary Fulgaro
- Reverend Kevin Gaffey
- Gladys Gallagher
- Delpha Gard
- Peter and Pamela Gardner
- Martha Garrett
- Mary Garzoni

Do you have a prayer request?

The BVM Sisters pray for persons in need.

To make a prayer request, complete our online form at bvm.org/prayer-requests or email development@bvm.org.

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

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Marie Gath Estate
John Gearen Estate
Michael and Margaret Geary
Catherine Geary Estate
Catherine Gibson
Rita Giersch
Myra Gist
Rosemary Giunta
Dorothy Glancy Estate
Betty Golden
Margaret Goodwin
Paul Gordon
Mary Gorman
John Gormley Estate
Mary King Gormley Estate
Gary Gossman
Reverend James Graham, CM
Carol Graser Estate
Reverend Joseph Graves
Harold Gray
Joseph Green Estate
Samuel Green
Joan Grossman
Stephen Haase
Margaret Mary Haerter
Sister Elaine Hagedorn, CHM
Sister Marilyn Jean Hagedorn, CHM
Mary Anne Hay Family Trust
Catherine Halligan Trust
Helen Hallin Estate
Eileen Halloran Estate
Francis Hanley
John Hanley Estate
Marie Hannaford Estate
Marian Harding Estate
Alice Harkin Estate
Reverend Monsignor Joseph Harrington
Elizabeth Harris Estate
Patricia Harrison
Mary Ellen Harrison Estate
Margaret Hayhurst
Michael and Janet Healy
Louise Healy Estate
Rita Hedberg
Donald Heitert
Margaret (Peggy) Hertel Estate
Patricia Heutching
Andreaa Higgins
Marion Hillabold Estate
Steven Hinkhouse
Gerald Hoeger
Mary Hoffman
Harold Hoge
Patricia Holsten
Lillian Horacek
Frances Horne Estate
Joan Hosmanek
Margaret Hotka
Margaret Hovens Estate
Reverend Leo Huber Foundation
James Hughes Estate
Raymond Hughes Estate
Virginia Huot Estate
Mary Kathryn Hustad
Mary Igoe Estate
Lbbie Irnick Trust
Agnes Masako It0
James W Ivers Jr Estate
Margaret Izzo Trust
Mildred Jacobs
Evangeline Jansen Estate
Dorothy Janssen Estate
Carole Jaroch
Mary Jean Jarvis
Genevieve Jensen Estate
Patricia and Roger Jewett
Janet Johnston
Maureen Jorris
Patricia Joyce
Pat and Randy Judge
Grace Judge Estate
Mary Kanabay Estate
Reverend Albert Kaparich Estate
Marguerite Karkick
Madeline Kaser
Francis Kauffman
Joseph Kearney Estate
Kathy Kearney Trust
Mary Kearns Estate
Elizabeth Keimig
Mary Kelley
Winifred Kelly Estate
Loretta Kendall
Lorraine and Dudley Kennedy
Ellen and Francis Kennedy Estate
Dorothy Bauer Kentner
Frances Kielyka Estate
Ann King Estate
Dorothy Kinney Estate
Mary Kircher Estate
Veronica Kirkland Estate
Robert and Linda Kirsch
Geraldine and Daniel Klinglesmith
Walter Kneppeer Estate
Patricia Kohl
William Kolody
Patricia Kommer
Mrs Marilynne Kowalski
Judith Kraen
Barbara Krahn
Anne and Alphonse Kraus Estate
Mary Kreider Estate
George Kremenak
Gloria and John Kromer
Mary Kurbly
Harriet Kurk Estate
Molly Kurtz
Mary Lamb Estate
Mary Larkin
Reverend Raymond Lassuy Estate
Marie Lawrick Estate
Elizabeth Ann Lavaty Estate
Donna Lavelle
Roberta and Michael Lavin
Anna Leeney Estate
Eleanor Lenick Estate
Catherine Leonard
Mary Agnes Leonard
Grace Lepard Trust
Laura LeRoy
Jeanne Leuthen
Thomas Lewis
Loretta Lifka
Agnes Llewellyn Estate
Margaret Loftus
Walter Long Estate
Augusta Loutens Estate
Eleanor McManus Lorenz
Jean Lowry-Goderre
Monisignor-Michael Lucid Estate
Bertha Lucy
Pearl Lukask Trust Estate
Kathryn Lynch Estate
Sheila Lyng
Mary Maas
Robert Harry Mace Jr
Frances Aid MacEinri
Mary C Mackin
Ellen Magers
Mary Maglione
M Winifred Mahoney Estate
Verna Mailander Estate
Velma Maloney Estate
Helen Maloney Trust
Tess Malunphy
Barbara Manik Louthan
Jean Mann
Bernadette Manning Estate
Adrienne G Mansi
Grace Mark
Mary Martin Estate
Rose and Charles Matt Estate
Elizabeth and Roger Maulik
Mary McAuliffe
Ellen McBride and Paul Navine
Edna McCabe Estate
Dorothy and Keith McCaffrey
Margaret McCarthy Estate
Reverend Patrick Pearse
McCarty Estate
Nancy McCarville
Monica Macauley
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In a joyful ceremony, Sister Tram Thi Thu Tran professed her perpetual vows as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Nha Tang Congregation of Vietnam at the Motherhouse Chapel of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.

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

After she professed her final vows, Tram beamed as the assembly applauded and gave her celebratory hugs.

Part of what made the Dec. 17 profession so special was the family and friends who shared in the celebration. Tram’s mother and brother-in-law, members of her congregation, friends from Divine Word, and others showed their support with their presence.

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

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

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

Read more: tinyurl.com/yhlfjbvr.