



Fund Development Office

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

St. Francis Convent ~ Graymoor ♦ 41 Old Highland Turnpike ♦ Garrison, NY 10524

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Dear Friend,

September 2022

A sign was posted around our Motherhouse. It read: PROCLAMATION! Sunday, August 21, 2022 is Sister Mary Harper Day. Join us for a special dinner in her honor.

Why were we honoring her? And why write to you about her?

Sister Mary's story in our community is similar to the history of the religious life of many of our Sisters. In her 60+ years she has served in varied ministries. She ministered in parishes in Oregon, New York, New Hampshire and New Jersey, being especially gifted in the role of faith formation of children and adults. During her years in parish ministry she also assisted in the governing of our community; and from 1991 to 1996 she served as our Minister General. At the end of her term, she did not slow down, but went on to serve in our guest and retreat houses in Ireland, Rome, Washington DC, and at Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House at Graymoor.

During the COVID pandemic, when no retreats were scheduled, Sister Mary accepted the role of "motherhouse coordinator" - an internal ministry to our own Sisters which also includes hospitality to our visitors and friends. As she completes this most recent ministry we wanted to celebrate her. It was an opportunity to thank her - not only for the past few years - but for all her years of service to our Sisters and to the whole Church. You will not be surprised to learn that she wishes to continue in service as our Archivist, having always loved to study and preserve the rich history of our Founders and our community. We welcome, and truly appreciate, your on-going support of our Sisters, who like Sister Mary, continue to serve God's people in many varied works.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA
Development Director

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