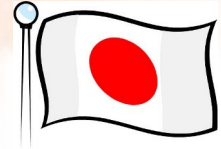


# Community Notes & News

**FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT**  
*Spring Newsletter ~ March, April, May & June 2021*



*\*Facing Reality in These Times\**



*Newsletter of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement*

St. Francis Convent (Graymoor)  
41 Old Highland Turnpike  
Garrison, New York 10524 U.S.A.  
(845) 424-3625

Website: [www.graymoor.org](http://www.graymoor.org)

Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/Graymoor.Sisters>

*Created by Sr. Denise Robillard, SA*  
*Spring Newsletter ~ March, April, May, & June 2021*

# A word from your Minister General ...



Recently, I had an interesting encounter with a gentleman in our parking lot on a sunny Tuesday afternoon. As usual ~ ‘timing is everything’... I just happened to be passing by and so I was the one to deliver the news to him that on Tuesday the *Gift Shop* is ‘closed’! He dealt with that information okay; he proceeded to inform me that he was going ‘up the hill’ to see his name in the brick walkway because he made a donation to the Friars! Our conversation continued as he inquired about my role ~ he proceeded to guess my role as he presumed I was a teacher! He expressed his disappointment that I was “not a teacher”, he said “then you are just a Sister”? I gladly affirmed his declaration that I was “just a Sister”! He seemingly had a preference for teachers so I certainly did not meet his hopes; he proceeded up the hill to seek out his name as set in concrete! I began to dwell further on my role as “just a Sister” and how it is obviously so diverse, and certainly never set in concrete! These recent months have made that even more clear as the multi-tasking reality of juggling has become ever more present!

That encounter stayed with me for quite a while and has been a source of reflection rather frequently as I am renewed in my commitment that I am “just a Sister”! When was the last time you really took the time to get back to the basics? Nature provides wonderful opportunities to watch in wonder and awe as new life buds forth in our midst! Think about your initial commitment and what was involved when you became “just a Sister” ~ all the energy and passion of “new life” ~ what did it really mean to you when you made a commitment to be *just a SISTER*:

**S** ~ *sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through daily prayer ...*

**I** ~ *inter-connected with others in the ‘common life’ ...*

**S** ~ *sincerely committed to the vowed life ...*

**T** ~ *trusting in the providential care of the Lord ...*

**E** ~ *eternally grateful for the blessings of the Lord ...*

**R** ~ *ready and willing to give 100% each day to whatever we’re called to!*

The truth is that we’re all “just” sisters and brothers ~ no matter what takes place in the busy-ness of our lives / no matter what our actual role might be ~ whether it is set in concrete or not, we really do ‘need’ to reflect and remember our basic commitment and all that it entails!

Perhaps *Rumi* sums it up best in the simplest reality of what a gift it is because:

*“We’re all just walking each other home.”*

*... continuing to put out into the deep with your Leadership Team!*



# News from St. Francis Convent, Graymoor

by Sr. Mary Harper, *Motherhouse Coordinator*



We often hear the words, “time flies, where does time go?” It seems like the days and months keep flying by as we move into the month of June.

Where did time go? Within the months of March, April and May we have shared many special feast days as well as our usual activities at the Motherhouse. We continue to have our monthly House Meetings, birthday and feast day celebrations, Day of Recollection on the First Friday of each month and the Friday Holy Hour for the intention of vocations.

**Catholic Sisters Week took place March 8-14, 2021.** The Annual event emphasizes all the good works that vowed religious contributed to Society. This year Catholic Sisters Week presented a challenge to End Hunger. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region IV, invited Sisters throughout the country to join for a collaborative effort to serve persons in need. In recognition of this week, we gathered on Thursday, March 11 at 2:00 pm in the Main Dining room. Sr. Margaret Sikora shared information on the topic of food insecurity in Syria and how it has grown dramatically during the pandemic affecting 60% of the population, most of them children. Sisters were asked if they would contribute in aiding those who are afflicted by hunger. Sisters again rose to the occasion by their monetary gift as they contributed \$1,250.00 to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. (Fr. Elias Mallon, SA is the External Affairs Officer for CNEWA which supports charitable educational, health & development projects in the Middle East.) Sr. Mary Electa Barber shared her unique vocation call that led her to the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. Sister told how the Sisters of the Atonement, through their example of joy and hospitality, was part of her discernment in choosing our Congregation.

On Wednesday, March 17, we celebrated the **Feast of St. Patrick** with a celebratory liturgy followed by a delicious traditional Irish dinner. We gathered in the Residence Dining room at 3:00 pm to enjoy Irish music, Irish coffee and cookies. The evening closed with a Bingo Bonanza.

On March 27, **Sr. Mary Kathleen Murray** died peacefully in the Lurana Health Care Residence. At her Wake, Sr. Paul Marie referred to Sr. Mary Kathleen as, “a woman of great prayer and faith, a true atonement who bore her sufferings with joy.” May Sr. Mary Kathleen rest in the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding.



**Holy Week** was a blessed time of special grace as together we journeyed through Holy Week services with gratitude to Father Dennis Polanco, our celebrant for Holy Thursday liturgy and Father Brian Terry, our celebrant for Easter Sunday. As always, the music and choir was very special and sounded angelic with their rousing *Alleluias* to the Risen Lord.

On April 12, we celebrated the **151<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Lurana Mary White’s birth** by having a special cake made for her birthday. On April 15, we gathered in chapel to celebrate the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death. During the prayer service, several eulogies were read describing the life and death of Mother Lurana and captured so well Father Paul’s description of her as, “*The greatest woman he had ever known.*” It was fitting to recall the memory of our Foundress during the Easter Season, the ‘Season of Hope,’ as we called to mind Lurana’s unwavering faith and hope in Divine Providence. We asked for her continued blessings upon us as we journey forward in confident hope.



# May Crownings



**Left:**  
Our Lady of the Atonement statue in the Motherhouse chapel was crowned by Sr. Margaret Sikora



**Above:** Sisters & Staff looking out window into courtyard where Sr. Mary Pat crowns Our Lady (top right). Sr. Mary Harper looks on.



**Left:**  
Sr. Margaret, a 2021 Golden Jubilarian, is shown crowning Our Lady of the Atonement in the Motherhouse chapel at Graymoor.




**Right:**  
The crowning of Our Lady of the Atonement at the Washington Retreat House in Washington, D.C. was done by Associate, JoEllen Sarff. Sr. Lynde was the photographer and put together this nice display (right).



# “J.P.I.C Sharings”

~ by Sr. Margaret Sikora, Director of JPIC



Recently, I again came upon the Inaugural Prayer of George Washington and I thought how fitting it is for these times, especially for the United States; but even for the world wracked with divisions, wars and in need of healing and reconciliation in so many areas of life. His prayer is a reminder *"of the faith and dependence on God's Divine blessing that enables us to be secure and happy people."*

## Prayer for the United States of America

"Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that You will keep the United States in your holy protection; that You will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that You will most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

As I reread this prayer, I thought if ever our nation (and world) needed the virtues noted above, NOW IS THE TIME! With multiple huge crises facing humanity each of us must work to heal the divisions that separate us one from another, one nation from another.

Will we take the challenge? A Wisdom Story from Oral Tradition: "Will you cure the people who come to you?" the disciple asked the Holy One? "Oh, people don't come to be cured," the Holy One answered. "They come for relief. A cure would require a change-and that's the last thing in the world they want to do."

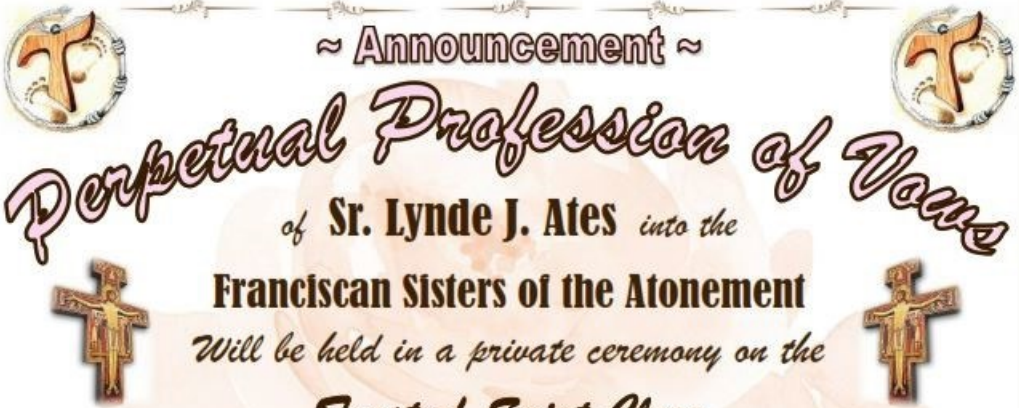


Jesus, please remember us, and that will strengthen us to turn again to you, to choose life, to work for justice and peace, to practice hospitality, to love our neighbors and to trust that you will strengthen and equip us for the task. Thanks be to God. Amen.

~ *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

~ Announcement ~

# *Perpetual Profession of Vows*

of **Sr. Lynde J. Ates** into the  
**Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement**  
*Will be held in a private ceremony on the*  
**Feast of Saint Clare**  
 ~ August 11, 2021 ~ Wednesday ~  
*at St. Francis Convent, Graymoor*  
**Congratulations,**  
**Sister Lynde!**

**Sneak Preview ~ More photos in next Newsletter**



*God bless your journey, Sr. Lynde!*

# "Greetings from Port Chester, NY"

~ by Sr. Esther Garcia

Hello to all of you from all of us! It has been a long time since we have written. When we were in "lock down," we were fortunate to have our Adoration Chapel open. Our families were very thankful that they were able to come and pray.

We had Sisters coming and going. At the end of September, Sr. Laurie Jeanne arrived; and left us at the end of January.



So, what's happening in Port Chester? Sisters Esther, Ellen, & Carmelita teach Religious Education classes ~ which are held four days a week. Sr. Esther calls her seniors and does some home visiting. Sr. Hope goes to the Don Bosco Soup Kitchen four days a week. Sisters Ellen and Hope proclaim the Word once-a-week at daily Mass. As all of you know, our main ministry here is to take care of the Chapel. It is a joy to see so many people to come to pray and are ever so grateful that they do have a place to come to be with their God.

Thanks to a good friend, we were able to go to New York City to get our vaccine. The first time we went in a limo. Second time sorry no limo we did have a nice ride into the city, and we got free Krispy Kreme donuts.

We still remember Sr. Maurja. She is missed so much in the parish of St. John Bosco. One good thing that can be said is that Sister truly trained her staff so well. They carry on as if she was still with us. Her presence is missed. May she rest in peace! Being in a parish is a blessing as we take part in so many of the activities ~ even within the restrictions of COVID-19 guidelines.



Left: Sr. Maruja Causa, SA  
RIP December 6, 2020

*Take care and  
know that you  
are all in our  
prayers.*

~ Your Sisters in  
Port Chester,  
New York







# ~ Washington Retreat House ~

Submitted by Sr. Nancy Conboy

## To Everything, There is a Season!

Spring 2021

These words from Scripture really capture the season of spring! And spring is such a lovely time to be in Washington, DC with all the flowers and trees in bloom (especially the cherry trees). We share some of this beauty with you in the pictures below. The Tidal Basin, the Franciscan Monastery, Bon Secours Retreat Center and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception are all bursting forth with vibrant colors and new life!

As part of the DC Water Conservation Program, Casey Trees planted 17 new trees (at no cost to us) on our grounds. In addition to beautifying our property, these trees will help contain the water run-off. The city has also installed a rain barrel to collect the rainwater, which will then be used for watering our trees and flowers.



As Franciscans we are grateful to participate in these projects which extend our mission to care for creation.

On April 15, we said “good-bye” to Sr. Marianne and wished her many blessings in her new ministry. The Associates gathered on May 14 with Sr. Margaret Connolly; they were all happy to see each other again after many months of isolation! JoEllen Sarff crowned Our Lady during a Marian Prayer Service and we all enjoyed delicious refreshments after the ceremony. (See ‘May Crowning’ page for photo of JoEllen.)

Another sign of new life at the retreat house is welcoming back groups for retreat. Since the beginning of spring we have hosted four groups at one-half capacity and several individuals for retreat. We have a few retreats scheduled during the summer at one-half occupancy. We are hopeful that in September we will be very busy once again!



# News from Edmonton, AB, Canada 2021

Submitted by Sr. Lucinda May Patterson



**March, April and May** are busy months in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada ~ preparations for fiscal year ends and new fiscal year's begin.

**The Franciscan Centre** has been one of our ministries located in the Atonement Building. The centre is composed of the chapel, St. Francis Room, St. Clare's Room and St. Bonaventure Reading Room. Prior to the pandemic, individuals could come and spend a little time in the chapel, St. Bonaventure's Reading Room, or participate in a scheduled activity. Similar to the rest of the world, Alberta has been under lock down due to COVID-19 so Wednesday's faith sharing group moved from meeting in person in St. Francis Room to meeting by teleconference. The group read, prayed and reflected with the book: *A Retreat with Francis and Clare* by Murray Bodo and Susan Saint Sing. This book was completed in late May & the group is now reading, praying and reflecting with *Simply Bonaventure* by Ilia Delio. Monthly meetings have been occurring at the Franciscan Centre. Three meetings have occurred masked and safely distanced. Time is spent in St. Francis Room for sharing and conversation and following the sharing, the chapel is visited.

## ~ Highlights from Our Edmonton Associates ~



- 1) Just as we were all getting ready to put away our winter attire, on Tuesday evening, May 18, 2021, *Grandpa Winter* wanted to make a final appearance and graced us with 27.9mm of precipitation in the form of snow. "A May snow will help your gardens grow," said he.
- 2) Adolph and Marilyn have been sending us daily inspirational messages, usually adorned with magnificent bouquets. My favourite has to be the one about these angels who sort through our prayers of petition, complaints, and thanksgiving. But alas...the angel in charge of prayers of thanksgiving is hurt because these prayers are far and few between whereas there are truck loads of the other types of prayer.
- 3) On the Covid front, things are improving. The Alberta government tells us that our vaccine participation rate for the first dose is about 60%.
- 4) Please remember our Associates Don and Bea Salmon, and their family in your prayers. Don continues to enjoy watching hockey games, while Bea stands by his side.



~ Submitted by Judith Frank



# News from Chigasaki, Japan



Submitted by Sr. Mavis DeMan

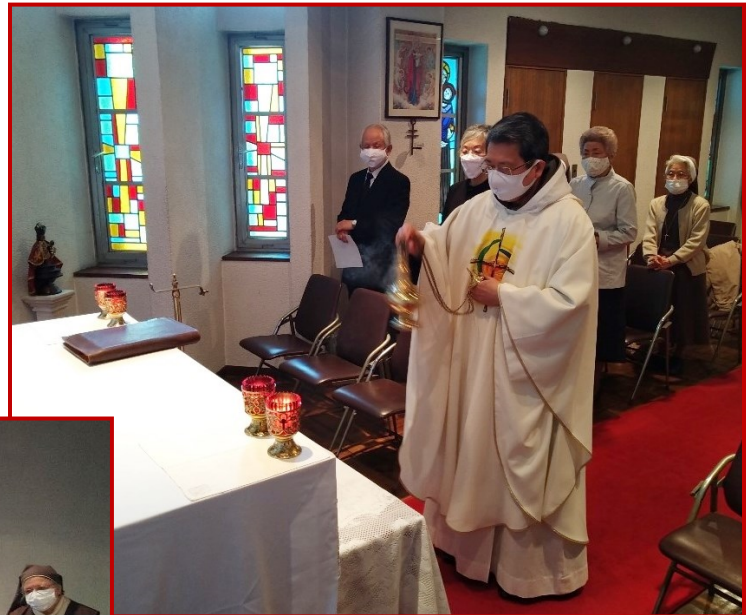
## In Memory of Sr. Mary Laetitia



The Memorial Service for **Sr. Mary Laetitia Toyoda** was held on April 20, 2021 in Tsurumi, Japan. Sister died on February 2, 2021 at Graymoor where she was buried. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a very small gathering of

people at the service. Those in attendance were: Sister's youngest sister, Hiroko (Michaela) & her husband, Masaaki Masuda, one very close friend of the family, the four of us (Sr. Paul Miki, Sr. Mary Stella, Sr. Angela Marie, Sr. Mavis), and two Atonement Friars (Fr. Hiramatsu & Br. Kobayashi).

Fr. Hiramatsu blessed Sister's remains (a clipping of Sr. Mary Laetitia's hair which is a tradition) during the celebration of Mass in the small chapel; then her remains were interred in the Friars' mausoleum in Tsurumi.



# 'News from our Mission in the Philippines'

*Submitted by Sr. Helen Hadcock*

The new normality of our lives since the Pandemic began remains basically the same. Quarantine measures may change from *Enhanced* to *General*, but our lives remain uneventful.

Sr. Virginia is busy with the daily tasks at Mother Lurana Ministries Community and Development Center. Sr. Rosa treats patients at the clinic usually only during the General Quarantine when people ages 18 to 60 are able to leave their homes. During the Enhanced Quarantine, only essential personnel are able to leave their homes, there is no public transportation and a strict curfew is in place. Since the Enhanced Quarantine was being enforced we were unable to attend any Holy Week services. During the hours of Holy Thursday, Eucharistic Adoration was held for the children, house parents, and Sisters. Stations of the Cross was held in the courtyard. Eucharistic Adoration was held on Easter.

Sr. Helen has continued to tutor the children in English. Sr. Helen is catechizing the children through word games and discussions of the Sunday Gospel. For example, the children have enjoyed Lenten Bingo, Holy Week Bingo, Easter Bingo and Pentecost Bingo. They became familiar with the English words, resurrection, sacrifice, almsgiving, fasting, and many others. From the oldest to the youngest child the meaning of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection was discovered and appreciated.

Sr. Rosa renewed her vows on March 15, 2021. We were fortunate that it was a time of General Quarantine. It was a simple ceremony held in the chapel after the Sunday Mass. Fr. Javier & Fr. Melchor (who are Sr. Rosa's patients), and Fr. Alan, (a friend of many years to the community), and the Sisters of Immaculate of St. Clare, the children, and staff witnessed the renewal. Even though everyone was wearing masks and socially distancing, the celebratory atmosphere was detected by all. The celebration continued with a meal prepared by the kitchen staff and served in the Feeding Hall which had been decorated by the staff.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Alan celebrated a memorial Mass for Sr. Susan. The staff, children, and Sisters prayed the rosary before Mass. During Fr. Alan's homily, he spoke of Sr. Susan's humility and her ability to listen with a caring heart. After, the Mass we gathered in the Feeding Hall for a simple meal. Sr. Susan's image looked down upon us to remind us of her ministry in the Philippines and also her encouragement to us to serve others. We continue to pray for everyone's safety and well-being.





# News from our Associates in Brazil



Sharings from Associate Mentor, Helena da Silva Guimarães de Souza

Associados Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement no Brasil em ação ~ Mesmo com a pandemia, os Associados Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement no Brasil continuam a se encontrar, via on-line, toda última segunda-feira do mês, para unirmos em oração e partilhar a vida, além da reza do Ofício Divino. E estamos, também, engajados em todas as ações de nossa igreja.

No Brasil todo ano no período quaresmal realiza-se a campanha da fraternidade que é convocada pela CNBB – Confederação Nacional do Bispos. É um convite da igreja católica para pensarmos, avaliarmos e identificarmos caminhos para superação das dificuldades do mundo em que vivemos. Cada ano é uma temática diferente. No ano de 2021 a Campanha da Fraternidade foi Ecumênica com o tema - FRATERNIDADE E DIALÓGO: COMPROMISSO DE AMOR.

Nós associados, como grupo de fé cristã, realizamos nove encontros virtuais, ao longo de 40 dias, onde refletimos sobre o ecumenismo no Brasil e no mundo, a partir do lema – *Cristo é a nossa paz: do que era dividido fez uma unidade* (Ef 2,14).

Chegamos a conclusão que a caminhada ecumênica da igreja está longe do ideal. Nós cristãos precisamos de mais união para promovermos a conversão para a cultura do amor e da paz, por meio do diálogo inter-religioso e convivência ecumênica, sem que percamos a nossa identidade religiosa. Encerramos os nossos encontros de quaresma com a Via-Crucis. Foi uma experiência enriquecedora.

Sr. Denise's effort to translate from Google Translator:

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement Associates in Brazil in action ~ Even with the Pandemic, Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Brazil continue to, meet online, every last Monday of the month, to unite in prayer and share life, in addition to the prayer of the Divine Office. And we are also engaged in all the actions of our church.

In Brazil every year in the Lenten period, the fraternity campaign is held, which is convened by the CNBB – National Confederation of Bishops. It is an invitation from the Catholic Church to think, evaluate and identify ways to overcome the difficulties of the world in which we live. Each year is a different theme. In 2021 the Fraternity Campaign was ecumenical with the theme - FRATERNITY AND DIALÓGO: COMMITMENT OF LOVE.

We associates, as a Christian faith group, held nine virtual meetings over 40 days, where we reflect on ecumenism in Brazil and in the world, from the motto – *Christ is our peace: from what was divided made a unity* (Eph 2,14).

We have come to the conclusion that the ecumenical walk of the church is far from ideal. We Christians need more unity to promote conversion to the culture of love and peace through interreligious dialogue and ecumenical coexistence, without losing our religious identity. We have closed our Lent meetings with via-crucis. It was an enriching experience.

# In Memory of . . .

**Sister Mary Kathleen Murray**, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, entered into the Kingdom of God's glory during the early morning hours of Saturday, March 27, 2021 in the Lurana Healthcare Residence at St. Francis Convent, Garrison, New York. Born on May 20, 1934 in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland to Kathleen (Marsh) and Vincent Murray, Mary Kathleen was one of five children. Besides her parents, she is predeceased by two brothers: Rev. Patrick F. Murray and Vincent Murray. She is survived by her sister, Teresa Murray, and her brother, Monsignor Raymond Murray, both of Northern Ireland.



Sr. Mary Kathleen Murray, SA

Having entered the Community as a Postulant in Ireland on August 15, 1950, Sister later became a Novice on October 2, 1951 and professed her Vows on the feast day of Saint Francis, October 4, 1952. She professed her Perpetual Vows on August 30, 1958. As an Atonement missionary for 69 years, Sister Mary Kathleen served for numerous years in parishes where she coordinated religious education programs, taught the Catholic faith to numerous children and adults, visited the sick and elderly in their homes and in hospitals. Sister also ministered in a children's crisis program supporting them in their efforts to recover from the trauma of domestic violence in the home. Sister Mary Kathleen was a gifted musician and had "dancing fingers" upon the keys of a piano. On every mission, music was a great part of her ministerial responsibilities as she led choirs and congregations to praise the Lord in song. Sister also had a special ability to 'give time' to others and had a quick and sharp memory for remembering the names of everyone whom she was asked to pray for. She was a "prayer warrior" for many who asked for her supportive prayers. Sister's favorite scripture verse was: *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13)*

Sister's ministries for the Lord took her from Ireland, to the Eastern and Western Coasts of the United States, as well as into Western Canada. Her first mission in 1952 was in Alamosa, Colorado. From there, she sowed the Word of God in New Jersey (Deal), Rhode Island (Harrisville), California (Woodland), New Hampshire (Lincoln, North Conway & Pittsfield), Utah (West Jordan), Canada (Edmonton, AB), Washington, DC at our Washington Retreat House). She returned to Graymoor in September 1999 to assume the role of Co-Coordinator of the Motherhouse and tend to the needs of the facility and Sisters at that time. In 2004, she became the Motherhouse liturgist for two years, retiring at the age of 71 due to health issues. When no longer able to be involved in active ministry, praying for others became her primary ministry. When asked, "How do you want to be remembered?" Sister Mary Kathleen said, "... for being just who I was!" She had a hearty laugh, a twinkle in her eyes, and a bright smile upon her face.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, services were private for the Community only. Sister's funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. She was buried in the Sisters' cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, New York 10524 (USA). Funeral arrangements were by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home of Peekskill, NY. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord ... and let Perpetual Light shine upon her!



# In Memory of . . .



**Sister Dr. Lorelei Francis Fuchs**, age 70, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, transitioned into God's glory during the evening of Thursday, June 17, 2021 in the Lurana Healthcare Residence at St. Francis Convent, just three days shy of her 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. Lorelei Lorraine was born to Frederick and Irene (Heitmeyer) Fuchs in Long Island City, New York on June 20, 1950. Besides her Sisters in Community, Sister Lorelei is survived by her sister, Elaine Spinelli of New York, and her nephews, Joseph & Anthony, and their families. She is pre-deceased by her parents and her sister, Linda Fuchs.

Lorelei, at age 25, entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement on November 1, 1975. She became a novice on September 8, 1976 and received the name Sister Lorelei Francis. Sister professed her first vows on

May 20, 1978 and her final vows on August 11, 1984. As an Atonement missionary for 43 years, Sister Lorelei was best known for her work after 1989 in the field of ecumenism. Sister received a Master of Arts in Theology in 1991 from University of Notre Dame, Indiana, then, a Master of Arts in Theology (MTh) and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Louvain, Belgium, where she also received her Doctorate degree in Sacred Theology (PhD) in 2003. Her dissertation was entitled: *Koinonia and the Quest for an Ecumenical Ecclesiology: From Foundations through Dialogue to Symbolic competence for Communionality*. In her early years in religious life (1978-1985), Sister ministered in various parish assignments as a faith Formator, teacher of religious education, liturgical coordinator and involved in all aspects of parish ministry. She was gifted in music, singing and played the guitar. In 1985, she was missioned to Rome, Italy to minister at Foyer Unitas, an ecumenical guesthouse of hospitality. Sister was quick to learn languages and became quite fluent in Italian, French and some German. She remained in Italy into 1987, ministering at the community's international guesthouse in Assisi, 1986-87 and in 2016. After this, she studied at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and received a Master of Arts in Theology in 1991.

Her journey in the field of ecumenism brought her to New York City in 1991 where she worked at the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute (G.E.I.) as an associate director within the Institute. In 1993, it became the G.E.I.I. (Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute). She remained with the Institute until 2006. As an Associate Director of the Institute, Sister served on the National Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission, was an associate editor of *Ecumenical Trends*, and from 1993-2003 was editor of the GEII resource materials for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. She also staffed the Institute's LARC Desk (Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic relations). She wrote numerous articles and gave presentations throughout the United States and also at the Centro Pro Unione in Rome. Sister's ministries were academic, theological and ecumenical. She traveled throughout the United States, and Europe, especially Italy, France and Germany participating in conferences, dialogues, and giving lectures. She also facilitated ecumenical retreats and parish missions. In October 2015, Sister Lorelei presented a conference on ecumenism at the Sisters' mission in Paliparan, Cavite, Philippines.

Though Sister's health began to decline in 2016, she continued with some ministries at St. Francis Convent at Graymoor, and in 2016/2017 in the community's Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC. She returned to the Motherhouse in 2018 where she retired and was cared for in the Lurana Healthcare Residence at Graymoor. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, services were for the Atonement community and close relatives only. Sister's funeral Mass was held in the Motherhouse Chapel on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, New York 10524 (USA). Burial was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Graymoor. Funeral arrangements were by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home of Peekskill, New York.

Sr. Lorelei Francis Fuchs, SA



# Photos of Sr. Lorelei Francis Fuchs, SA ~ see previous page



## A Prayer ~ written by Sr. Catherine T. Ryan

Holy and pleasing to God!

Lord, that is what you want from me ... that is what I want to be.  
But just to want something is not enough ~ want becomes action,  
then it gets tough!

That is when some people come into our life so kind,  
so thoughtful, so true ... then I know, dear Jesus, they were sent by you.

They see the dark clouds along the way ~ their helping hand and cheerful song  
brought the sunshine and hope and beautiful day.

Now I know, dear Lord, I can become, holy and pleasing to you because  
of the help you sent my way ~ a friend who really was you!

### **SISTERS & ASSOCIATES - For the NEXT issue of the Community Notes & News Newsletter**

***I hope to have it created & distributed for early October 2021.***

***It will include events & happenings from the months  
of June, July, August & September 2021.***



***Submission Deadline is September 24, 2021***

**Please send articles, information & thank you notes directly to Sr. Denise  
~ either through postal mail or Email to: [secretarygeneral@graymoor.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@graymoor.org)**



# In Memory of . . .

**Sister Ann Kathleen (Mary Bridget) Clancy**, age 96, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement, entered into the Kingdom of God's glory on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the Lurana Healthcare Residence of St. Francis Convent at Graymoor in Garrison, New York. Sister Ann Kathleen was born on February 23, 1925 in Ballinagleragh, Co. Leitrim, Ireland. Survived by her Sisters in Community, nieces, nephews and cousins, Sister is pre-deceased by her parents, Kate (Gilmartin) and John Clancy, and her three brothers: James, Stephen & Dermot.

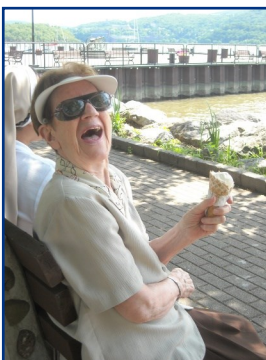


*Sr. Ann Kathleen Clancy, SA*

Mary Bridget, at the age of 22, entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Rossinver, Ireland on June 7, 1947 and became a postulant. After a time there, she and seven other postulants sailed from Ireland to New York and Sister recalled the warm welcome they received upon arriving at Graymoor after the long boat trip. The homesickness and the sense of being 'in a far-away land' did not last long after they experienced the love and warmth of the greeting by Sister Mary Celine, the Directress of Postulants at that time. This feeling of welcome has meant a great deal to her over the years and Sister Ann Kathleen, herself, was always a very welcoming person. On September 28, 1948, Sister became a Novice at Graymoor. She professed her First Vows on October 1, 1949 and her Perpetual Vows on August 27, 1955. As an Atonement missionary for 72 years, Sister Ann Kathleen served in various parishes within the United States primarily as a parish minister, teaching the faith through religious education class, pastoral care of the sick and homebound, and reaching out to those in need.

Early in her religious life, Sister ministered for three years in the Community's retreat ministry at the Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC. Other responsibilities included years of parish ministry in the following parishes: Connecticut (Mt. Carmel), Michigan (Milford), New Jersey (Camden), New York (Ticonderoga, Port Leyden & Brushton), Oregon (Bandon & Lakeview), and Rhode Island (Harrisville). Sister was an energetic, versatile and caring person. Sisters who knew Sr. Ann Kathleen saw her as a friend whose love and sensitivity enriched their lives. They admired her generosity as she gave of herself in the service of her Sisters. She had a hearty laugh and enjoyed good times in the company of her friends and family. She enjoyed being with cheerful people, enjoyed music, art, sports, and especially hockey! In the early 90's, Sister's caring heart led her to minister for four years with those suffering from the effects of AIDS at Yale, New Haven. Shortly after this ministry, she returned to the Motherhouse at Graymoor where she was a driver to take Sisters to appointments and also ministered in our Sisters' Gift Shop for a number of years. As her health began to decline in 2018, Sister became a resident in the Lurana Healthcare Residence where she resided until her death.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, services were private for the Atonement Community members only. Sister's funeral Mass was on **Monday, June 21, 2021**. All services were held in the Motherhouse chapel and Sister was buried in the Sisters' cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, New York 10524 (USA). Funeral arrangements by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home of Peekskill, New York.



# In Memory of . . .



**Sister Edward Marie Tesiero (*Edwina Mary*)**, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, peacefully entered into God's glory on Sunday morning, July 25, 2021 in the Lurana Healthcare Residence of Saint Francis Convent at Graymoor in Garrison, New York. Born in Amsterdam, New York on October 15, 1935 to Sarah (Boyd) and Edward Tesiero, Sister is predeceased by her parents and her sister, Marilyn Sickler. She is survived by her Sisters in Community, her brother Edward Tesiero of Amsterdam, NY and her nieces and nephews.

Edwina Mary entered the Community on September 8, 1959. She received the name Sister Edward Marie on May 5, 1960 when she became a Novice. She professed her first vows on May 15, 1961 and

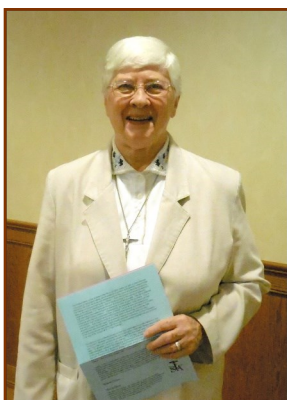
her final vows on August 27, 1966. As an Atonement missionary for 60 years, she served in parish, catechetical, pastoral and educational ministries throughout her years as a Sister.

Sister's first mission assignment was in 1962 at Mt. Carmel, CT. From there, she ministered in Maine (Limerick), California (Merced, Bakersfield), Oregon (Bandon), New York (Albany, Graymoor, Canajoharie, Amsterdam, Schuylerville, Massena & Morristown), New Hampshire (North Conway), and a 3-month stay in Bethlehem, So. Africa. From 1991-1996, Sister served on the Leadership Team of the congregation and from 2001-2006 she was the appointed Secretary General. She returned to Graymoor in January 2018.

The year before she entered the community, 1958, Edwina received a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Rose, Albany, NY. In 1970, she studied Theology for one year at Regina Mundi in Rome, Italy and in 1971 began studies at St. Louis University, Missouri where she received an MA in Theology in 1973. From 1975 to 1980, Sister Edward Marie was the Directress of Higher Studies for the junior Sisters of the congregation. Sister Edward Marie was well known as a catechist and director of religious education in the numerous parishes in which she ministered. Sister once wrote, "My finest and most treasured memories are moments when, as a catechist, I observed surprise and joy come over a child's (or teen's or adult's) face as he or she 'caught' and recognized the truth of God's Presence as real, and in them, and with them in their personal life."

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, services were private for the Atonement Community and immediate family members only. Sister's funeral Mass was held in the Motherhouse Chapel on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, New York 10524 (USA). Funeral arrangements were by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home of Peekskill, New York.

**Sr. Edward Marie Tesiero, SA**



# Words of 'Thanks!'



**Dear Sisters** ~ On behalf of Sr. Mary Kathleen's brother, Fr. Raymond & her sister, Teresa Murray and myself (Sr. Paul Marie), we want to thank all the Sisters for their prayers, cards, Masses and expressions of sympathy on the death of Sr. Mary Kathleen. Your thoughtful and well-chosen words brought us comfort at a time of deep sadness. **Thank you, Sr. Paul Marie, Fr. Raymond & Teresa**



**Dear Sisters** ~ I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for the beautiful Mass and sympathy cards that you gave to me at the time of my brother, Seamus' death. Your prayers, especially, were very supportive for me. You all remain in my daily prayers. Blessings to all. **Thank you ~ Sr. Mary Mulligan**

**Dear Sisters** ~ Thank you so very much for all the beautiful birthday cards. Your thoughtfulness, kind words and many prayers are deeply appreciated. I am optimistic about many more years ahead ~ but who knows? May Jesus bless and embrace each of you on your journey!

**Much love, Sr. Jean Beyette**

**Dear Sisters** ~ I would like to thank everyone, especially the Sisters, for their prayers & Masses for my mother during her illness and until she united with our Heavenly Father. Losing someone you love is the hardest thing, but thanks to your prayers, concern & sympathy cards, I had been really comforted during my time of loss. **Thank you so much & God bless us all! ~ Sr. Connie Duco**

## ~ Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord ~

Betty Ann Smith, 3/01/2021	FSA Associate from New York
<b>Sr. Margaret Marie Berarducci, 3/17/21</b>	<b>Franciscan Sister of the Atonement</b>
Matsuko Sandoval, 3/22/2021	Sister of Sr. Angela Marie Kumagai, SA
Brendan Sweeney, 3/26/2021	Brother of Sr. M. Eilish Sweeney, SA
<b>Sr. Mary Kathleen Murray, 3/27/2021</b>	<b>Franciscan Sister of the Atonement</b>
Seamus "Jim" Mulligan, 3/31/2021	Brother to Sr. Mary Mulligan, SA
Roy Carey, 4/11/2021	Cousin to Sr. Joanne Macaulay, SA
Maria Francisca Hernandez, 4/26/2021	FSA Associate from California
William Reardon, 4/07/2021	Cousin to Sr. Mary Harper, SA
Patrick Dullaghan, 5/01/2021	Brother to Sr. Josephine Dullaghan, SA
Fr. Bill Drobach, 5/20/2021	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Delisa Alba Duco, 5/27/2021	Mother to Sr. Concepcion ("Connie") Duco, SA
<b>Sr. Ann Kathleen Clancy, 6/17/2021</b>	<b>Franciscan Sister of the Atonement</b>
<b>Sr. Lorelei Francis Fuchs, 6/17/2021</b>	<b>Franciscan Sister of the Atonement</b>
Mitsu Kaneko, 7/02/2021	Sister to Sr. Mary Stella Ishizaki, SA
Giuliana Morosillo, 7/11/2021	FSA Associate from Assisi, Italy
Sheila Marie Kelly, 7/15/2021	FSA Associate from Maryland/Wash. DC
Francis Edward "Ted" Ryan, 7/18/2021	Brother-in-law to Sr. Hope Marie Fulkco
<b>Sr. Edward Marie Tesiero, 7/25/2021</b>	<b>Franciscan Sister of the Atonement</b>

... and let perpetual light shine upon them!