

Community Notes & News

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT
Autumn Newsletter ~ August, September & October 2018



Watercolor paintings by Sr. Marjorie Moon, SA

NEWSLETTER of the
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

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This Newsletter is created Quarterly and distributed at the end of these months:
January, April, July and October

A word from your Minister General...



It seems like time just passes so much quicker than it used to ~ is it a matter of growing older? ... that, I will leave to mystery! Over recent months, I have been dealing with a minor foot issue (plantar fasciitis) so I had a 'walking boot' for an extended period of time ~ 'extended' really turned out to be what felt like forever! On the boot was the name of the podiatrist from whom I have been receiving care, so, in reality, I was 'advertising' ~ in fact, I felt like a 'walking billboard'! I began to reflect on that concept and the thought expanded! Often we say each member of the congregation is responsible for vocation promotion. I believe in that fact with great certainty! Sitting in the role of *Development Department Director* this past year has also brought me to believe more firmly that every member carries a certain degree of responsibility for fund development too! So ... in essence, each Sister of the Atonement is a 'walking billboard' for our congregation in various ways! Everything we say and do speaks volumes to those we encounter ~ it's like wearing the name of our congregation on our forehead ... truly being a 'walking billboard'! As we continue to move through this 120th anniversary year for the Society of the Atonement, perhaps it's a good time to reflect on: "What type of 'billboard' have I been?!? What does my billboard really say ... !?!"



Some billboards have lights focused on them with lots of bling and color; some are more sedate and toned down with just the basics. Regardless of the size / color / tone / lighting, typically a billboard shares its message with great clarity! Throughout these 120 years of life and mission, many women have answered God's call and received that *billboard message* to enter the congregation to live the vowed life in the Franciscan-Atonement lifestyle. So too, for our dedicated donors who receive our *billboard message* and choose to partner with us in responding to the needs of the times through their gift of prayerful support and monetary assistance. Our message is alive and well with 98 professed members and six women in our formation program; 'walking billboards' as *Sisters of the Atonement* can be found in Brazil, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Philippines and USA. We strive to literally communicate the message of the gospel as a good news reality! Truly, it is essential that we become comfortable in the fact that each and every one of us is a 'walking billboard'! We simply need to ascertain our comfort level with such a reality as we determine: "Just what is being communicated through my personal *billboard message*?!?" Let's spread the good news and proclaim the truth! ~ Sr. Mary Patricia Galvin

Continuing to put out into the deep with your Leadership Team ...

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



by Sr. Margaret Sikora, Director of JPIC



“The Season of Creation” has been designated as the dates from September 1 to October 4, 2018 (the Feast of St. Francis)!

As I sit to write, it is indeed October 4th and I am very aware that the season of creation cannot stop today – it must be on-going.

Our prayer for creation must be a daily concern; it affects everything. And it must be followed by action. This year in a joint letter, nine leaders from different denominations endorsed the concept of a **Season of Creation**. ***“As the environmental crisis deepens,”*** they wrote, ***“we Christians are urgently called to witness to our faith by taking bold action to preserve the gift we share.”***

Cardinal Peter Turkson is one of the signers. He is Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. ***“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue. It is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”*** ~ www.seasonsofcreation.info

Recently, I read, ***The God of Mysticism and Action*** by Tony Campolo and Mary Albert Darling. Their main point is that true mysticism and contemplation must, of necessity, lead to action on behalf of others – much like Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si* keeps reminding us of the need for an ecological conversion that respects the dignity of both the human and non-human worlds. Everything is connected, but especially, the health of the world ecology and the well-being of the world’s poor.

This year’s theme of the **Season of Creation** is ***“Walking Together.”***

One might ask: ***“Why do you see climate change as a moral and ethical issue? It comes from the basic message that’s in all major traditions. It’s worded differently, but it is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. And who is our neighbor: our neighbors are those next to me. They’re the future generations, the children. They’re brothers and sisters who are economically challenged. They are the refugees and immigrants, who are being affected by climate change. And my neighbor is also, as St. Francis of Assisi would say, everyone and everything. All the elements, all of the creatures, the plants. What it really comes down to is: Am I following this basic command to put love into action?”*** ~ Sr. Joan Brown *osf*, quote from ROAR reflection

~ Motherhouse Coordinator ~

by Sr. Laurie MacDonald, *Motherhouse Coordinator*

~ St. Francis Convent, Graymoor ~



Sisters, it doesn't seem possible that October is upon us and that I have been here for almost 2 months. This time so far spent with and for the Sisters has been wonderful and prayerful. I arrived at Graymoor on August 18th and started unpacking and thought to myself, "Why did I bring all of this "stuff"? At that point, I started to clear the clutter. August seemed to fly by with all of the ins and outs of the Sisters on vacation and retreat.

September 1st came along and I was officially on duty. Every month is an experience in patience, love and understanding and I am receiving all of this from my Sisters. With the start of September it brought challenges not only to me but to a few Sisters who were in need of hospital care. Thank God everything has worked out. We had burnt toast which set off the fire alarm to a door that would not lock. And this was all in one day. You have to look at all of these things with a sense of humor and a smile. Labor Day came with the annual picnic which we held in the dining room as it was too hot to be any place else. The food was great and the conversations were even better. Our Sisters and Staff from the Residence joined us for festivities and fellowship. On September 8, 2018, Sr. Christina Marie Fuoco was called home to God. Sister had resided at Providence Centre Infirmary in Edmonton, AB, Canada. We pray for Sister's family and for those who ministered to her.

The month of October came in with a "chill-in-the-air" and preparations for the coming feast days to be done. On October 3, we celebrated the *Silver Jubilee* of Sr. Concepcion (Connie) Duco, 25 years as a Religious Sister! Then, that evening, we prayed the *Transitus* of St. Francis along with some of our Friars. The prayer service was very prayerful and beautiful. About eight of our Atonement Friars joined us, as well as some Associates and friends of Graymoor. We had a wonderful night of prayer and fellowship. The next day, we celebrated the *Feast of St. Francis* and enjoyed a festive meal with all of our Sisters. On Friday, October 5th, Sr. Mary Pat and a few of the Sisters went to the *25th Annual Sharing Hope Celebration Dinner* in New York City. It is a benefit for the Friars and we enjoyed dinner and sharing with other guests. Sunday, October 7th, was our *Covenant Day Feast*. We were joined by about ten of our Friars who came from the Inn and the top of the hill. Our Sisters in the Residence also joined us ~ as they now do every Sunday.

Our second *house meeting* was held on Tuesday, October 9 in the Motherhouse dining room. This gives each Sister who lives here an opportunity to express her concerns and to hear about the recent and up-coming activities. Our birthday celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th. It will be a festive autumn birthday! Then, towards the end of this month, we look forward to celebrating our *Corporate Reception Day* on October 30, 2018. Wishing you all a colorful autumn!



~ Welcome, Martha! ~



Entrance into Postulancy

The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
ANNOUNCE

the Entrance into Postulancy of

Martha Nguyen

on Wednesday,
August 22, 2018

in the
Chapel of St. Francis Convent
in Cavite, Philippines.



Let us join together in prayer & with grateful praise for the gift of
Martha's request to enter our Postulancy.

May she be granted the grace of final perseverance
and a life filled with
Joy in God!

~ Let us 'WELCOME' Martha Nguyen ~



On August 22,
Martha Nguyen
entered our
Postulancy program
in Cavite,
Philippines.

Left: Sr. Virginia &
Sr. Helen are with
Martha during the
welcoming evening
prayer service.



Left: Martha on
her first day
as a Postulant.

Left:
Martha
and her
Postulant
Directress,
Sr. Helen.



~ Introducing Our New Motherhouse Coordinator ~



As of September 1, 2018, we officially
"Welcomed" Sr. Laurie Jeanne MacDonald

as the new Motherhouse Coordinator at
St. Francis Convent. Sr. Laurie Jeanne comes to us
after ministering in the Boston area since September
1998 where she ministered at Emmanuel House in
Roxbury for eight years. The painting behind her is of
Emmanuel House in the early years ~ painted by
Sr. Vivian Giulianelli. In 2006, the Sisters moved out
of Emmanuel House to Dorchester, MA where Sister
continued her ministry in the Catholic Charities
Children's Daycare programs until she arrived at
Graymoor to be the **Motherhouse Coordinator**.

Sr. Laurie Jeanne is also the **Volunteer Coordinator** at
the Motherhouse. If you have referrals to be volunteers,
please contact Sr. Laurie Jeanne by email or call her at
her office: 845-230-8234.





On October 3, 2018,
Sr. Concepcion ("Connie") Duco
 celebrated her Silver Jubilee.
 Sister entered Religious life on
 March 11, 1990 and professed her
 First Vows on October 3, 1993.
 Congratulations, Sr. Connie!


 Happy Jubilee, Sr. Connie!

Introducing ... Our New Staff Who Minister in Treasury, Medical Finance and Human Resources

Sisters & Staff ~ As we move into 2019, the faces of new Staff from Brenner, McDonagh & Tortolani (BMT) will assist you in our various financial offices.



Treasury Department
< LEFT:
Lynn Romanski
Controller

Treasury Department

RIGHT >

Karol Cummins
Chief Financial Officer

As Sr. Diane transitions into the role of Director of the Development Department, Karol will take on the daily operations of our Treasury Department with her dedicated colleagues.



Treasury Department
RIGHT >
Stephany Valentine
Accounting Assistant



Medical Finance Office
< LEFT:
Barbara McKay
Medical Finances



Human Resources Department

RIGHT >

Robin Jefferson
Human Resources



< LEFT

Sr. Diane Bernier, SA
Treasurer General of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement & in January 2019, will also assume the role of Director of the Development Department



Covenant Day Celebrations ~ October 7, 2018

Community celebrations are numerous in the month of October!

Always with "Joy in God" we celebrate these festive occasions throughout the world. The following three photos come to us from St. Anthony's Guest House in Assisi, Italy.



Left:
Br. Gregory, SA,
Sr. Alessandra &
Sr. Maria Gabriella,
Friar Postulants:
Jan & Alfonso,
Sr. Lynde, then two
of
our Associates:
Bente & Giuliana.



Right ~ two of our
Associates:
Giuliana (left) and
Bente (right)



Covenant Day

October 7, 1898
to
October 7, 2018

Above Left: Br. Gregory, SA, Sr. Alessandra & Sr. Maria Gabriella, Friar Postulants: Jan & Alfonso, Sr. Lynde and Sr. Sue. Above Right: The sanctuary area prepared at St. Francis Convent at Graymoor for Liturgy of our special celebration in honor of Covenant Day 2018!



"The three blessed days of solitude were climaxed on **October 7** by a simple yet touching ceremony. The Mother Foundress described it thus: "Father blessed and laid on the little improvised altar in the oratory two crucifixes; one he gave to me, the other he kept for himself. The latter had been brought by me from Assisi and I had seen it in the Sacro Convento lowered down until it touched the tomb of Saint Francis. It was well understood by the Father Founder and by me, that these same crucifixes represented the entire oblation of ourselves into the hands of God, for the purpose of founding the **Society of the Atonement.**" (p. 50)

"... Thus ended the first **Covenant Day**. And each succeeding year on the seventh of October, every Friar and Sister of the Atonement recalls in grateful remembrance the blessed promise made by God to the two heroic souls whom He chose to be the **Founders of the Society of the Atonement.**" (p. 52)

Sr. Mary Celine, SA. A Woman of Unity. Graymoor, Garrison, NY: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 1956. pp. 50, 52

News from Lurana Health Care Residence

by Janice Selfridge, Administrator LHCR

Greetings from the Lurana Health Care Residence and Assisted Living Wing at St. Francis Convent! The festivities of the autumn season continue with many 'Joy in God' moments for the Sisters & staff.

On October 17, some of the Sisters and staff from the Residence joined in a ferryboat cruise leaving from Peekskill. The Sisters' excitement was bubbling over as the tour boat made its way up the scenic Hudson River. They enjoyed lunch, snacks and music on the cruise. The air was crisp and the leaves were just beginning to turn to their beautiful fall colors. Sr. Consiline, who immensely enjoyed the day remarked, "Today was the best day I've had in a longtime!" What an adventure everyone enjoyed! Attached are two pages of photos from our day out on the Hudson River! Enjoy the smiles!



Sr. Consiline

Janice



Sr. Loretta G.



Laurie

Sr. Loretta B.



Monica

Linda



Sr. Teresa

Sr. Babylyn

Sr. June



Sr. Consiline



Laurie

Sr. Dolores



Sr. Nancy

Sr. Loretta G.



Sr. Barbara



October 17, 2018 ~ continued



Kathy

Sr. Mary Nestor

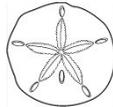


Sr. Marjorie

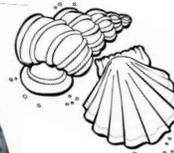


Sr. Teresa

Sr. June



Sr. Nancy



Sr. Babylyn

Luann



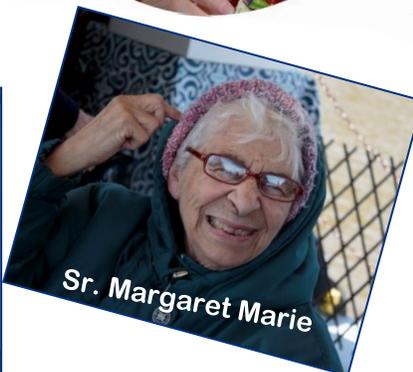
Sr. Teresa Pauline



Sr. Teresa

Janice

Sr. June



Sr. Margaret Marie



Sr. Babylyn

Sr. Loretta B.

"More Hudson River Fun!"

~ Harvest Blessings Tea ~

On Monday, **October 15, 2018**,
Sr. Mary Electa coordinated an elegant "**Harvest Blessings Tea**"
complete with delicate, homemade
tea desserts! *Deee-liii-cious!*
Thank you, Sr. Mary Electa!



1909

"The Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels was blessed and the consecrated altar stone put in place by Monsignor Conroy on the afternoon of October 29, 1909. ... The next day was Saturday, Our Lady's day. The Shepherdess of the wandering sheep had led her little flock straight into the Fold. Monsignor Conroy said the 7 o'clock Mass in the Sisters' chapel. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved and Mother Lurana had the joy of relighting the red lamp. Later in the morning, the two Friars, five Sisters, six Tertiaries and four children knelt before Monsignor Conroy and made their profession of faith. "Thank God," the Foundress wrote that evening, "we are safe in Saint Peter's boat!" And she added, "The only fervor I felt was when I made my profession of faith, especially at the words, 'And I believe all that the Holy Catholic and Roman Church believes.' Ah! it was good to say it aloud and from inside."

~ Sr. Mary Celine, SA. *A Woman of Unity*. Graymoor, Garrison, NY: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 1956. p. 143



2018



Top Center:
October 30, 2018,
Sr. Mary Patricia "had the joy of relighting the red lamp" as Mother Foundress once did.



Top: Br. Ted and Fr. Arthur.

Above Center: After Mass, both Ministers General ~ Sr. Mary Patricia & Fr. Brian Terry ~ bless the congregation who attended the Corporate Reception Day Mass. Later this day, both the Sisters & the Friars celebrated together at a 4:30 p.m. Mass followed by a festive meal hosted by the Friars!



Above: Fr. Bob, Sr. Mary Trinitas, and Br. John

Bottom Center: Fr. Joe, Sr. Pat and Sr. Theresa Ann



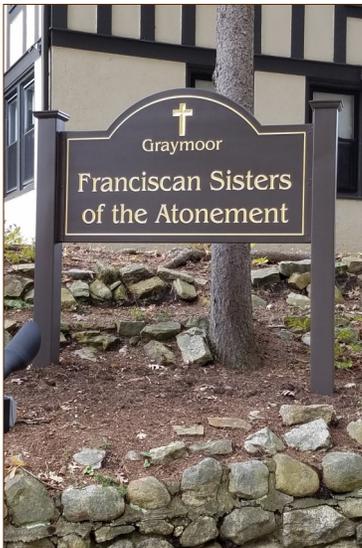
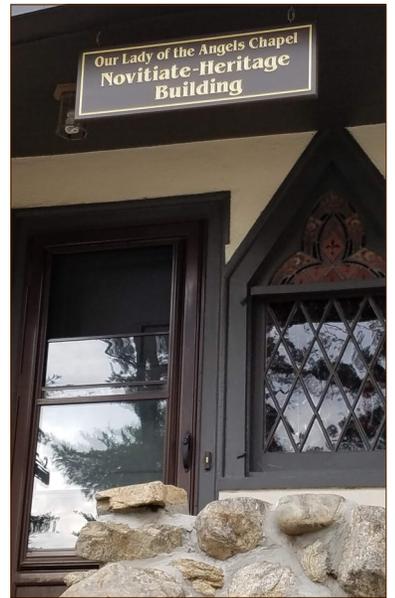
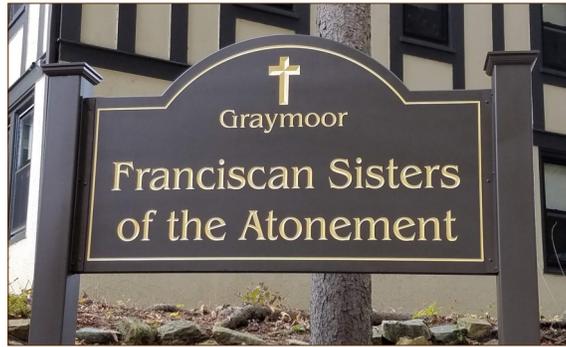
Corporate Reception Day ~ Celebrated October 30, 2018



Halloween Fun! ~ 2018



~ Guiding the way ...



Autumn 2018 began the process of obtaining new signs on our Graymoor property to assist guests, pilgrims & retreatants locate the various buildings.



... new SIGNS on our property!

News from our mission in Port Chester, NY

~ Our Parish Activities ~

On a Saturday in early September, three of us attended the Don Bosco Community Center lunch to celebrate the Independence of Central America. Each week, there is often another wonderful cultural feast or day to celebrate. Often, there is Mass, followed by a social.

On September 15th, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Pat Angelucci, our pastor. "Happy Birthday from the Franciscan Sisters, Fr. Pat!"

September 30th, we celebrated in grand style with numerous flags representing the various countries of all the people of St. John Bosco Parish. Following, true to form, was a festive social with food, dances and full native dress of various countries.

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, we celebrated one of our own Community feast days ~ Covenant Day. Just prior to the beginning of Mass at Holy Rosary Church, a beautiful statue of Our Lady was carried into the church and crowned.

On October 12th, we attended a 1:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Tarcisio dos Santos, SDB, who officiated in the language of Brazilian Portuguese. Many of the children were dressed as angels bringing flowers to the statue of Our Lady of Aparecido. After Mass, there was a festive social with this delicious cake! (Right)

Four days each week, the Sisters are present in either the Soup Kitchen or the Food Pantry / Clothing Distribution center at the Don Bosco Community Center. At right: Sr. Connie prepares a meal; Sr. Leila shares a moment with Carmen, who runs the Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry/Clothing center.



Above (L-R):
Fr. Pat Angelucci &
Fr. John Grinsell



Above (L-R):
Sr. Leila with parishioners



Above: Sr. Ellen at the Mass celebrating all cultures in the Parish.



Right: Sr. Maruja at the festivities!



Above (Left): Sr. Connie assists in the Soup Kitchen. **(Right):** Sr. Leila shares a moment with Carmen, Director of the Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

Port Chester ministries continued ...

~ Our Parish Activities ... continued ~

On Mondays, two of us are present at the Communion Service at King Street Nursing Home and twice monthly at the Port Chester Nursing Home with Deacon Bill Vaccaro. There are also weekly Communion calls to the homes of local shut-ins and on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings, two of the Sisters are involved in some aspect of the Religious Education program.

During October, Sr. Ellen has been contributing many hours at either Corpus Christi or Our Lady of Mercy preparing some of the older children for First Eucharist which will be celebrated in October.

Each night, three of us take turns reposing the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel. One of our biggest supporters is Hector (right), who is from Guatemala. He comes each evening to lead us in the *Bendito* hymn (*Blessed, Blessed, Blessed be God*). We have so much to be grateful for in our ministries, especially the witness of faith from all the People around us.



Above & Below: Views of Holy Rosary Convent



~ Those Moments in Life ~



In October, an unexpected fire alarm sent us all running outdoors!

The heavily suited Firemen arrived in their big red firetrucks with all their equipment!

As you can see from the photo on the RIGHT, "all was well!" ~ Thank you, Firemen! Thank you, Lord!



Sr. June, Sr. Frances & Sr. Teresa with one of the helpful firemen! "All OK!"

~ Associate News from Washington, D.C. ~



Seed Scattered and Sown

Associate Marlene Vikor, along with her husband, Deacon Desi Vikor, have taken up permanent residence in Durham, North Carolina. Their move follows years of faithful service to St. Hugh's Parish and the Archdiocese. Associates from St. Hugh's joined with the rest of the parish to bid them farewell on September 16. A Mass and brunch were offered in their honor. May they go in peace and with all good wishes.

Candidates for Associate Program Accepted

We are pleased to report that all three of our Candidates were accepted in September 2018 and will continue their formation to become Associates. Congratulations to *Olga Baeza*, *JoEllen Sarff* and *Betty Triplett*.



Supporting Our Philippine Mission

What began in the spring as the seed of an idea, is beginning to bear fruit! In September, the Associates began selling tote bags at the Washington Retreat House. The bags advertise the Washington Retreat House and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. Proceeds from the sale of the totes will soon be on the way to the Philippines to help support the Sisters' mission there. Pictured with the tote bags are (L-R): JoAnn McCarthy, Cindy Perry, Betty Triplett, Consuelo Powell, Sharon O'Brien, Sr. Margaret, Mary Ann Tretler, Ellen Hanyok & Sr. Josephine. On October 11, 2018, we gathered to celebrate the Community feast of Covenant Day.



Celebrating 100 Years: On October 6, 2018 the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington commemorated its 100th Anniversary. Throughout the history of the Washington Retreat House, the Sodality Union has been a great supporter of our retreat mission. In recognition of their 100 years of service and devotion we congratulate them and look forward to the next one hundred years! A celebratory Mass was offered at the John Paul II Shrine next to the Washington Retreat House. It was followed by a luncheon and program at the Washington Navy Yard.



Left:
Atonement Sisters:
Marianne Rohrer,
Nancy Conboy and
Josephine Dullaghan.



Below/Right: Atonement Sisters: Margaret Connolly and Mary Mulligan. Not pictured were: Sr. Kristine Koba, Atonement Sister & Sr. Sara Dwyer, of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.



Left: Recognized for their service as Past Presidents of the Sodality Union were Cindy Perry (far left) and Olga Baeza (2nd from right). Also in attendance were Associates Sharon O'Brien, Ellen Hanyok and Betty Triplett.



“Foothill Franciscan Associates”

Autumn Activities 2018

(Photo on right): “*We are the Light of the World*” - candles representing our witness as a presence of God to the World. Our opening reflection, given by Sr. Thomas Marie, was about ‘our call’ as Associates to the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. Then, we each lit a candle & blessed one another with holy water from the Graymoor Well.



During **September 5-7, Associates:** *Gilda Puglisi, Renee Murdoch, Gloria Merjil, Maureen Ellis, Mary Taylor, Maria Allen, Rosemary Authier, Sally Avery, Cathy Flores, and Pat Maher*, along with our new candidate Associate: *Louise Lenhart*, were blessed to join with Sr. Thomas Marie Heavey (*who was visiting us from Graymoor*) for our **Annual Retreat at the Franciscan Retreat House in San Juan Bautista.**

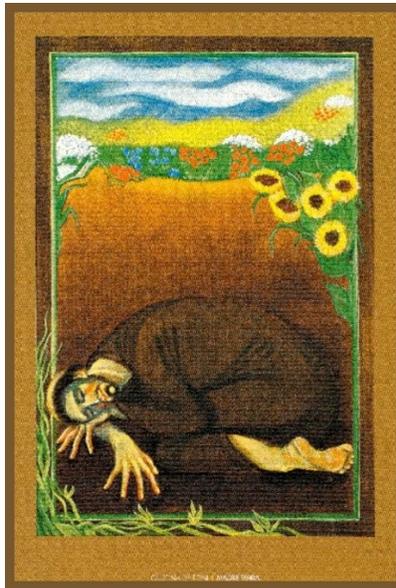
Our retreat theme was centered on the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare and our call to witness the presence of God in all creation. Gloria and Renee brought the theme to life in a morning reflection about the three interwoven aspects of living a life centered in Christ: a call to holiness, a call to prayer and a call to action. Points were made to be “as servant to all,” as exemplified in the lives of these two Franciscan saints.

We continued this reflection as we traveled to the ocean near Pajaro Dunes - the location of our annual retreats for so many years. As our senses embraced the gifts of creation, each of the following Associates offered a reflection from St. Francis’ prayer of the Canticle to the Sun (Creatures): Rosemary (Brother Sun), Renee (Sister Moon & Stars), Cathy (Brother Wind & Air), Sally (Sister Water), Maureen (Brother Fire), Pat (Sister Mother Earth), and Gilda (Sister Bodily Death).

*Praised by You, my Lord,
through Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains us and governs us,
And who produces varied fruit with
colored flowers and herbs.*

Reflection:

*Francis descends into the womb of
Mother Earth
which guards the secret of
its fruitfulness.
Like the seed, Francis trusts himself
to the earth and to its
intense contact,
without either protection or defense,
in obedience to the necessity
which divests him of all self will
in order to offer himself to the
richness of the Spirit.*



Associate Mary Taylor gifted each person present a bar of her hand-made soap with healing essential oils which she named: ***Pace e Bene***



Our wonderful Associate Retreat closed with a Day of Recollection meditation with Father Ken Laverone beginning with morning Liturgy of Christian Prayer and following lunch a very powerful discussion of Canon Law in the Catholic Church addressing the current challenges of faith.

Also attending the Day of Recollection were the Sisters: Carmelita Heredia, Mary Kelly and Dolores Fenzel and Seaside & San Juan Bautista Associates: Daria Reyes, Margaret Galvan, Socorro Hinojosa, and Esperanza Cabrera. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and reunion.



~ Brazilian Associates & Friends Visit Graymoor ~



FIRST VISIT TO GRAYMOOR!

From September 21-25, 2018, several of our Associates from the Rio Verde, Goiás region of Brazil, and their Pastor, Rev. Enochs, traveled from São Paulo airport to JFK on their way to “Graymoor!”

They were welcomed with opened arms and it was so good to see them here, finally, on the land that they had heard so much about from all the Sisters whom they know ~ especially Sr. Dolores D’Aloia who ministered in Brazil for 52 years and who is now residing at Graymoor.

It was a grand REUNION with so many Sisters who had been missioned in Brazil, as well as those from Leadership Teams who had visited over the past and recent years.



Above & Below:

An afternoon touring around Cold Spring, NY. The “gazebo” near the Hudson River is a grand attraction!



Above: A visit to the FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY and MUSEUM.

Left to Right: Helena, (Eleanor), Galgane, Fr. Enochs, Fr. Ken, (Franklin), Luzia de Fatima & Francimar.

~ A few more photos are shown on the next page ~

~ Brazilian Associates & Friends Visit Graymoor ~



Above: Sisters gather with our Brazilian guests and Associates as they prepare to leave Graymoor to return to Brazil. Everyone participated in singing familiar religious hymns prior to our guests' departure. **Above (L-R):** Sr. Loretta and Sr. Dolores, who were both missioned in Brazil, join in singing in Portuguese. Our hearts were full!

Smiles to last a lifetime! Memories to be cherished!
 Hearts full of love & joy! Thank you for coming!
 Thank you for your inspirations!

Right: Luzia de Fatima & Francimar



Below: Galgane & Sr. Mary Pat



Right: Luzia de Fatima & Sr. Thomas Marie



~ A Special Event from St. John Bosco Parish ~

On Sunday, October 21, St. John Bosco Parish celebrated the biggest feast of Peru: *Nuestro Señor de los Milagros*, or *Our Lord of the Miracles of Nazareth*. Following the 1:00 p.m. Mass, a procession journeyed along Westchester Avenue to Holy Rosary Church. Twenty-six men from “*La Hermandad de Nuestro Señor de los Milagros*” took turns carrying the large image of Jesus along the route while women carried incense holders and a band, dressed in colorful red costume, followed playing music. Upon arriving at Holy Rosary Church, boxed dinners were ready for everyone.



Sr. Maruja (left), ministers in St. John Bosco Parish in Port Chester, NY and is native to the country of Peru.

We are grateful for Sister's life as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement and for her dedication to God's People in parish ministry.



"Joy in Paliparan!"

by Sr. Helen Hadcock



The Social Worker practicumers (below) were recognized for their volunteer ministry to the children in the shelter & feeding program. Each one expressed their gratitude to the children, staff, Sr. Virginia and all the Sisters for their opportunities to learn, practice their Social Work skills, and live on this site.

The **2nd Anniversary** of the **Mother Lurana Ministries and Community Development Center** was celebrated on October 4, 2018. The participants and activities were numerous. Early in the day, after the cooks prepared fried chicken and rice, 200 children arrived at our gate to be greeted and receive a meal (above). The words of gratitude, "*Salamat po,*" were heard many times by the Sisters, staff and youth. Later in the afternoon, Fr. Alan Cañaneo celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy. Sr. Rosa organized a special Offertory procession with the boys from the shelter; it reflected Franciscan values of stewardship of creation, and care for the sick and marginalized.



One young man said that he experiences God in our midst. Another expressed the sentiment, "*What would happen if Mother Lurana Ministries were not in Paliparan and if the Sisters did not come?*" We would not have the experiences of God in our midst! Sr. Helen led the group in a prayer of gratitude for the gift of God's presence in the heart of each person.



The celebration in the Ministry Building began with prayer and a liturgical dance. It was followed by a dance program by the youth and children who had practiced for a month, not that they are poor dancers but because they love music and dancing. The Social Worker practicumers (interns), the Atonement Youth Group, the boys and many of the staff danced. Laughter and clapping was heard all around. Staff members and children were recognized for their many contributions to the ministries. Michael received three awards: Favorite Kuya (brother), Employee of the Year and People's Choice Award.



In Memory ... through the Years

Sr. Christina Marie Fuoco, SA

July 13, 1935 ~ September 8, 2018

Sr. Christina Marie Fuoco died on the evening of September 8, 2018 in the University Hospital, Edmonton, AB, Canada. Born in Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada on July 23, 1935, Sister entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement on September 23, 1956, professed First Vows on April 16, 1958 and Perpetual Vows on April 6, 1964. As an Atonement missionary for 60 years, Sister served in catechetical, parish, pastoral and retreat ministries in both Canada and the USA. Her missionary endeavors sent her to New York State (Cobleskill, Amsterdam & Cadyville) and to Washington, DC for retreat ministry at our Washington Retreat House. In Canada, Sister ministered for 9 years between Castlegar and Sparwood, BC, also 10 years in East St. John, New Brunswick and a total of 33 years in Alberta, Canada (Camrose & Edmonton) until she retired in 2013.



Those who knew Sr. Christina Marie well, also knew that she was a gifted musician. She could play numerous songs by ear ~ on piano or accordion. You will find no better on the accordion and never with a note of music from paper! What a gift Sister had! Sister brought so much joy to our Sisters and to those with whom she ministered to in parishes at as special events. Sr. Christina Marie's early mission experiences were in Amsterdam & Cadyville in NY State where she taught Religious Education classes to children of all ages. Her sense of humor and musical ability enhanced her teaching methods and her bonding with teenagers especially. Youth choirs were sure to sprout up wherever Sister was assigned. Since 1965, most of Sister's assignments were in her native land of Canada.

In January 2013, Sister retired to the Providence Centre Infirmiry in Edmonton, AB, Canada. Reflecting on the blessings of her life, Sr. Christina Marie shared the following: "An 87-year-young Sister, who plays the violin, and myself on keyboard, team-up together to provide music for the sing-a-longs and birthday parties. We are known as, "The Infirmiry Duo." We enjoy playing the Golden Oldies—Lawrence Welk style! They mystery of my journey of life continues to unfold with many surprises. I strive to be attentive to each moment ~ "Emptied of the familiar, I await the unknown" ~ God is not yet finished with me!" And so true this is of Sr. Christina Marie who is surely watching us from Heaven and keeping continuing to pray for us, for truly, "God is not yet finished with her yet!"



With a grateful heart . . .



On behalf of the Kelly family, my sincere and grateful thanks to our Minister General, Sr. Mary Patricia and to all the Sisters for your incredible and prayerful support that I received as we grieved the death of my brother Edward (Ned). Words cannot express our grateful "thanks" to each of you for all the Masses being celebrated for our beloved brother. God's continued blessing on each of you!
~ Sr. Mary Kelly



Dear Sisters,

I extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to each of you who sent cards and promises of prayer while I was in the hospital and in rehabilitation at Cabrini of Westchester. I am truly overwhelmed, and I wish I could personally respond to each and every one of you, but I shall do that here as there are so many and I am so very grateful!

Thank you!!! I am praying for each of you who need prayers and I am so blessed and thankful for your support and prayers.

~ Gratefully, Sr. Bianca



Dear Sisters,

Thank you for the many Masses, Enrollments, phone calls and words of sympathy at the time of my brother, Louis' death. May he rest in peace.

My family and I are most grateful and all are remembered in prayer.

~ Sr. Loretta Bezner

~ Sisters, Take Note! ~

- ◆ **AREA MEETING PLANNING (Oct 2018-Jan 2019)** ~ Each Sister is to create ONE 'Action Statement' in preparation for your Area Meeting. We can move forward in a pro-active manner striving to make informed decisions together!
 - ◆ **Graymoor Area Meeting** ... November 27, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - ◆ **DISCERNMENT RETREAT WEEKEND** at the FRIARY ~ December 7-9, 2018 and also March 15-17, 2019 ~
- ◆ **REGIONAL MEETING 2019 PLANNING** ~ Only ONE Meeting will be held. It will be at Graymoor for 3-full days: April 9-11, 2019. It is critical that you participate in the entirety of the 3-day meeting so please plan your travel days. We value your presence during these days of making critical decisions that will affect you!

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord ...

Richard Butler, 8/04/18 Brother-in-law of Sr. Mavis DeMan
John O'Brien, 8/09/18 Cousin of Sr. Paul Marie Gouthro
Josephine Selfridge, 8/11/18 Mother of longtime employee, Janice Selfridge
Cornelius (Sonny) Drerup, 8/11/18 Nephew of Sr. Loretta Bezner
Edward (Ned) Kelly, 8/20/18 Brother of Sr. Mary Kelly
Joseph Patrick Erb, 8/24/18 Cousin of Sr. Mary Agnes Rooney
Aidan E. Eberhardt, 8/26/18 11-yo great grandnephew of Sr. Mary Trinitas Mayer
Elizabeth Merrill, 8/27/18 Sister-in-Law to Sr. Ann Merrill
Janet O'Moore, 9/6/18 Mother of our longtime pianist, Rory O'Moore
Sr. Christina Marie Fuoco, 9/8/18 Franciscan Sister of the Atonement
Louis Bezner, 9/25/18 Brother of Sr. Loretta Bezner
Fr. Martin Madison, 10/4/18 Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Fr. John Coppinger, 10/22/18 Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Anne Nagy, 11/07/18 Sister-in-law of Sr. Ann Teresa Nagy (RIP)
Jean Donovan, 11/09/18 Sister of Sr. Mary Harper

... and let perpetual light shine upon them!



SISTERS & ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE:

The DEADLINE to submit information for the next Community Notes & News Newsletter is January 15, 2019.

~~ It will be the **WINTER** Issue and will cover the months of:
November, December (2018) & January 2019 ~~

Please send Newsletter articles directly to Sr. Denise
in Email or by Snail-Mail before January 15, 2019.

Email to: secretarygeneral@graymoor.org (no other email, please)

All *photos* need to be sent in Email as a JPEG, or give me the printed photo
(unless arranged in Microsoft Publisher).

No need to design your page! Just send the text & photos directly to Sr. Denise.

Avoid typing in ALL CAPS or I cannot copy & paste! **No PDF pages, thank you!**

Thank you & enjoy this Newsletter! ~ Sr. Denise Robillard