Community Notes & News

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT Spring Newsletter ~ February, March & April 2018





















NEWSLETTER OF THE Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

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

A word from your Minister General...

The *Easter Alleluia* is loud and clear in our midst! This season speaks so clearly of the gifts of light and hope in our lives ... it is my prayer that each of you will experience the special graces of this Easter reality!

Each year we hear the resurrection story reverberate within us ~ it shakes us to the core ... to the essence of our being as persons of faith! When reflecting on the various scriptural texts depicting the resurrec-



tion of Jesus, I love to envision the <u>astonishment</u> of the women who had gone to the tomb "so that they might anoint him ... they were saying to one another, 'who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was <u>very large</u>." (Mark 16:1-4)

Although we hear the ever-new *Easter* truth over and over, there are days that we may find ourselves stuck in the *Good Friday* experiences of our lives ~ those times when the challenges in life - the *stones* of darkness and despair - can seem 'very large'! In March, I was at our mission in the Philippines ~ a fourth visit, and once again a wonderful opportunity to be with our Sisters and see the mission in action! I was reminded up close and personal of the 'stones' that are so real for those we minister to each day. Perhaps it is the challenge of waking up every morning experiencing hunger; or maybe the challenge of having six children who crave their basic needs to be met ... but ... the 'stones' of poverty are very large! In faith and trust we are able to help these children and families lighten the burden of those stones that may at times seem 'very large' ~ with our Risen Savior we see the light and we move forward in hope! Easter greets us with the proclamation of ALLELUIA ... the mandate to affirm the fact that light surely dispels all darkness and hope certainly casts out any despair! May we have the courage as community to continue to 'step up' each day and boldly proclaim this truth at each of our missions as we provide service to those in need ~ we are an Easter people and *Alleluia* is our song! With joy we share our *Alleluia* as instruments of peace and presence in striving to alleviate the stress and strain of those 'stones' which can be very large! Gratefully we know that others wish to unite with us ...

This month we sing our *Alleluia* as we welcome our 'transfer Sisters', *Sr. Babylyn* and *Sr. Connie*, from the Philippines to Graymoor! From mid-April to mid-December they will share in an experience of our history and heritage at Graymoor, live and minister with us at our East Coast Missions in Port Chester, NY and Washington, DC, as well as sharing time in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada at our Corporate Commitment there! We sing out ~ *Alleluia!*

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

~ Motherhouse Coordinator ~

by Sr. Leila Spaulding, *Motherhouse Coordinator* St. Francis Convent, Graymoor

Hello to all our Sisters ~ wherever you live and bring the Gospel!

This year, February had Valentine's Day on the same day as Ash Wednesday, so, we celebrated a *Mardi Gras Supper* combined with *Valentines*, as I had told you in the last *Community Notes & News*. Then, on February 14, we moved into the season of Lent. On February 27, our Sr. Mary Elizabeth Stewart, who was in a nursing home in New Jersey, went home to God.

The month of March came in treating us to *not only one*, but *three big snow storms*! We survived, but still here in the midst of April, we have experienced snow in the air and on the ground - some days with ice. Some are wondering if Spring will ever really come!

Lent went by quickly, and on March 26, our sacristan, Sr. Mary Laetitia, flew off to Japan for a special event of being a Godmother to one of her cousin's triplets. Here at Graymoor, we know the triplets from their numerous visits here when they lived in Manhattan. While Sr. Mary Laetitia was away for Holy Week and Easter, several of us volunteered to help Sr. Teresa Schlereth set-up all the flowers. Fr. Dennis Polanco, SA was our celebrant for Holy Thursday Mass; and then we had Fr. Bob Warren, SA for both Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It was all very prayerful and beautiful. Sr. Mary Electa worked with us to prepare the music ~ and that, too, sounded beautifully angelic! Easter Sunday came with much gratitude and many *Alleluias*! God is good!

Another big *Alleluia* during this month of April was on April 19. On that day, we welcomed our two Transfer Sisters to Graymoor from the Philippines. Sisters Concepcion (Connie) and Babylyn, were picked-up at Kennedy Airport by Sr. Mary Pat and brought here safely. We are happy to have them with us until they return to Paliparan on December 19, 2018. If anyone wants to send them cards of welcome, know they can be sent to Graymoor. During their stay, they will spend time at several of our missions including the parish in Port Chester, our Washington Retreat House, and at some point, to our mission in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Personally, I am almost into my last three months as Motherhouse Coordinator. *Thank you* to all who have prayed for me and supported me in so many ways. There are still miles for me to

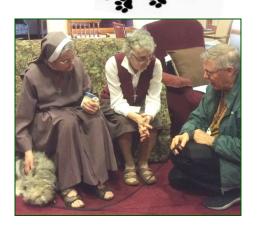


go here at Graymoor before July 31; so, keep your good prayers coming. My plan is to be at my new assignment in Port Chester by August 27. Earlier in August, I will have my annual retreat and some vacation days.

May you also experience some R&R in your life! Perhaps we will welcome a number of you home for the Regional Meetings between May 10-17, 2018.

~ Lurana Health Care Residence ~

alth Care Resident Sisters







"Joey"... is a Havenese puppy. He was born on November 6, 2017. Joey lives & ministers with the men at St. Christopher's Inn. Fr. Dennis is his caregiver & friend.



Independent Cheeky CURIOUS Enthusiastic Mischievous Clever Gentle Confident Bright INTELLIGENT Sturdy **Energetic** Clown Playful Snuggler Happy Spunky Joyful Trainable ACTIVE Charming Affectionate Friendly Companion Havanese



On Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, "Joey" and Fr. Dennis Polanco, SA, made a surprise visit to the Sisters at St. Francis Convent & Lurana Health Care Residence. There was much delight & many smiles on the faces of the Sisters who were so happy to meet "Joey" and play with him. Thank you, Fr. Dennis! ... Come again anytime!











Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

by Sr. Margaret Sikora

EARTH DAY – END PLASTIC POLLUTION

Earth Day this year focuses on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics, along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics.

Globally, campaigns are being rolled-out to eliminate or reduce the use of plastic in our lives. This is at a critical juncture, as time is not on our side! Plastic is a substance the earth cannot digest. A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute and these bottles cannot bio-degrade – they virtually last forever, some estimate more than 500 years.

Millions of these bottles end up in our oceans and are wreaking havoc on marine life around the planet. Ellen McArthur campaigns to promote the circular economy in which plastic bottles are reused, refilled and re-cycled rather than used once and thrown away. The circular economy is one that we can all embrace, so it is good to see that the United Kingdom is now set to join 38 countries in having a recycling scheme in which all containers, whether plastic, glass or metal, will to be covered by a deposit return (DRS) scheme in retail stores. It is now time that all governments introduced such schemes to curb the millions of plastic bottles a day that go unrecycled.

The plastics crisis is more urgent than you know. Just recycling bottles won't fix it. Since we started engineering polymers to make plastic on a mass scale in the 1950s, this by-product of the petrochemical industry, which uses about 6% of all the oil we extract a year, has spread to myriad manufacturing processes. Plastic is now ubiquitous, insidious and impossible to avoid. It makes up our clothes, containers, bottles, electronics, food trays, cups and paints. Our cars depend on it, so do our computers, roofs and drain pipes. It's the global packaging material of choice. We sleep on it, wear it, watch it, and are in direct bodily contact with it in one form or other all day and night.

The BBC's hugely popular Blue Planet series and a stream of scientific studies have made us aware of how the oceans are being polluted. It may have profound societal benefits, but this most successful of all man-made materials sticks around for centuries. When exposed to sunlight, oxygen or the action of waves, it doesn't biodegrade but simply fragments into smaller and smaller bits, until microscopic or nano-sized particles enter the food chain, the air, the soil and the water we drink. The more researchers look, the more they find in the human body.

The same scientists who raised the alarm on air pollution from the deadly particles emitted by diesel vehicles are now finding plastic micro-particles raining down on cities, and blown into the air from cars and construction sites, washing lines and food packaging.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

by Sr. Margaret Sikora

EARTH DAY — END PLASTIC POLLUTION (Continued from previous page)

It is not enough to single out plastic bottles, coffee cups, or the micro-beads found in cosmetics. We urgently need to form a comprehensive plastic action plan. Banning all plastic bags and single-use packaging would be a good start, but we need to go way beyond that. Plastic production has to be reduced, just as alternatives should be encouraged. Regulators must think about phasing out whole groups of chemicals of concern, rather than slowly restricting individual chemicals one at a time, and consumers must be helped to understand what they are being exposed to, and to navigate the complexity of what can be recycled, composted or burned. Isn't it time to re-educate ourselves about how our health and the health of all on our planet are harmed by this insidious thing we call "plastic?"

"Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor. Account must also be taken of the pollution produced by residue, including dangerous waste present in different areas. Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable. from homes and businesses. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

~ Pope Francis, Laudato Si`, #20, 21 (Article reprinted with permission Kevin Cawley, Editor, Carbon Rangers, April 2018.)



The Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation bulletin board was put together by two Associates from California, Gilda Puglisi and Laurel Mancebo, and one Associate from New York, Tara Taryn. It was wonderful to have them assist at Graymoor and promote efforts to forward the message of justice. Thank you, Gilda, Laurel & Tara!



(Above): Two of our Graymoor Sisters take time to read the JPIC bulletin board: Sr. Thomas Marie & Sr. Frances.

Celebrating St. Patrick!

Sure'n it was a 'bit of green' we were seeing as we entered into the festivities of St. Patrick's celebrations. On Thursday afternoon, we had an afternoon Irish Tea and coffee gathering. Homemade scones (*right out of the oven*) were provided by Sr. Mary Electa. As you can see by the pictures, a good time was had by all.

Sr. Mary Kathleen won the door prize of a cup and saucer floral arrangement which was donated by Sister Josephine. On the morning of the feast day, we started with fresh coffee & Dunkin' Donuts (gifts of Sr. Josephine ~ thank you) and a delightful DVD, "Discovering Ireland," which provided a wonderful tour that highlighted many of the home counties where our Sisters are from.

At the end, we said a prayer of gratitude for ALL our Sisters. We share in common, leaving our families behind, and gave tribute to our Sisters who left their beloved homelands to become members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. We had a very festive dinner of ham and cabbage etc. and concluded our Mass by singing *Our Lady of Knock*.



Washington Retreat House News



Washington Retreat House Sisters and Cooks enjoying a great St. Patrick's Day dinner of corn beef and cabbage!







(Above Left): Sr. Kristine, Sr. Josephine, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Ellen, Sr. Miriam Joseph, Sr. Mary, Delmy & Maria. (Above Right): Includes Sr. Sara, second to right.



(Right): From the March Nor'easter in Washington, DC ~ a gift from nature ~ beautiful, but brutal!

(Below): Our beautiful chapel at Eastertime! Alleluia!







Groups & Conferences that have enjoyed the hospitality of the Washington Retreat House:

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(Left): Orientale Lumen's,
John Figel, Director, speaking
to His Excellency
Archbishop Christopher Pierre



(Above): The National Council of Catholic Women Board and Moderator

Hawaiian Luau in February











































Hawaiian Cruise in February



As Mother Nature was etching beautiful snowflake patterns on our windows, some of us were thinking warm thoughts about a 3-day cruise to the Islands of Hawaii from February 5-7, 2018.

A wonderful DVD from our local library provided each morning with an overview of six of the Islands; the history and culture of its people and the impact, both good and bad, of how the 19th and 20thcenturies introduced disease, greed and violence to the islands. As natives now rediscover their roots, Hawaii is a paradise found, lost and reborn!

A special [double the prize] Bingo was called by the captain of our ship (Sr. Mary Pat) and money manager, Sr. Ann Merrill (House

Treasurer), kept our finances in order. A 'make your own sundae' followed. An afternoon Tea-At-Sea was held in the Kannapali Shore Tea Room (former Infirmary dining room on the 3rd floor) offering fresh 'out of the oven' scones and cookies.

Best of all was the Luau held in the 4th floor Solarium. We had a brief Prayer Service, thanking God for the gift of all creation and for all the people of Hawaii. A beach backdrop provided a good setting for the ship Photographer (Sr. Mary Electa) to take photos as souvenirs. Sr. Mary Louise had us singing 'Blue Hawaii' while Sisters: Nancy Sargent, Hope Marie, Frances Arduini and Mary Electa did their own rendition of "Happy Talk" (from South Pacific soundtrack).

Steve, our FLIK chef prepared delicate sandwiches, beautiful fruit arrangements, some of which we could dip in warm chocolate. A \$25.00 Gift Certificate was won by Sr. Loretta Guevarra. Everyone had such a 'fun evening' at the Luau. Remember . . . "If you don't have a dream, and I don't have a dream, how we' gonna have a dream come true?" Aloha!







On Thursday, April 12, 2018, we had an *Easter Tea* and celebrated in remembrance of Mother Lurana's birthday.







Easter

vigil at Graymoor



















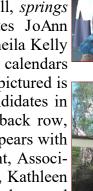
On March 31, 2018, the Triplets: Maria, Noah & Reina, children of Sr. Mary Laetitia's cousin, Akiko Kato, were baptized at the Franciscan Roppongi Chapel Center in Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan. Congratulations to our wonderful Triplets! We love you & pray for you!

~ With love, your Franciscan Sisters



~ Washington DC Associates ~ Activity Update

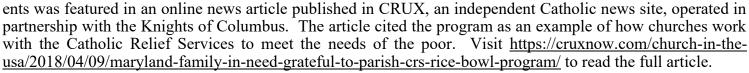
Washington DC Associates exchanged Valentines in February at their monthly meeting. We will be faithful to our daily prayer commitments and prayer days for those in the Community Calendar & Necrology and our assigned prayer partners. Our Washington Associates group has been blessed with four candidates who have applied and wish to start the formation process in preparation for membership. From the well, springs of living water will flow. Pictured at right are Associates JoAnn McCarthy, Cindy Perry, Kathleen McFarland, Ellen Hanyok, Sheila Kelly and Consuelo Powell as they receive their community prayer calendars from Mentor, Sr. Margaret Connolly (back row, far left). Also pictured is



Betty Triplett, one of the four candidates in formation to become Associates (back row, 2nd from right). To the left, she appears with candidate Olga Baeza. To the right, Associates Ellen Hanyok, Marlene Vikor, Kathleen McFarland and JoAnn McCarthy and candidates, JoEllen Sarff and Betty Triplett (all of St. Hugh's parish in Greenbelt, Maryland), take time to admire God's handiwork in the cherry blossoms of spring.

Associate Mary Anne Tretler (not pictured) also serves as President of the St. Hugh's

Ladies of Charity. In this role, she is a key player in feeding needy families in the Greenbelt community. Recently the pantry and one of its' cli-

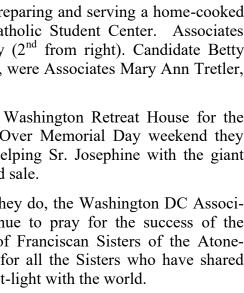


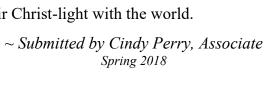
In April, Associates joined with fellow St. Hugh's Sodality members in preparing and serving a home-cooked meal for approximately 200 University of Maryland students at the Catholic Student Center. Associates pictured below include: Ellen Hanyok (5th from right) and Cindy Perry (2nd from right). Candidate Betty Triplett is also pictured (4th from left). Not pictured, but also contributing, were Associates Mary Ann Tretler, Kathleen McFarland, JoAnn McCarthy and candidate JoEllen Sarff.

In May, the Associates will join with Women's Retreat League at the Washington Retreat House for the Crowning the Blessed Virgin Mary and a luncheon with the Sisters. Over Memorial Day weekend they

will be helping Sr. Josephine with the giant spring yard sale.

As in all they do, the Washington DC Associates continue to pray for the success of the missions of Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement and for all the Sisters who have shared their Christ-light with the world.





~ New York Associate News ~



~ from Associate Mentor, Sr. Loretta Bezner New York State

On April 14, 2018, the *Center for Life Breakfast* was held in Mount Kisco, New York. One of our Associates from Putnam Country, *Tara Taran*, was honored at this gathering.

For the past years, Tara has gone to Washington, D.C. for the *March for Life*. She is a true pro-lifer.



Welcome Sisters!

On April 19, 2018, Sr. Concepcion ("Connie") Duco & Sr. Babylyn Dulfo arrived at Graymoor for the first time ~ all the way from the Philippines! Both Sr. Connie & Sr. Babylyn are preparing to transfer into our Community with the hope of professing Final Vows in the Autumn of 2019. This is each Sister's first time in the United States and they will have ministry experiences in several of our East Coast USA missions as well as in Edmonton, AB, Canada. This is a wonderful experience for the Sisters to come to know our members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, and for us to get to know them.

From the Philippines > to > New York





More Community News!



Left: Sr. Marjorie teaching a watercolor art class. Sisters Connie, Babylyn & Mary Trinitas participate; along with Mr. Bill & Br. Bill, SA.



Above: Sr. Connie & Sr. Babylyn join Sr. Marjorie in practicing music and singing!



Photo on Left:

Sr. Babylyn (left) & Sr. Connie (right), enjoyed a wonderful day in New York City with Sr. Eilish who gave them a grand tour!

Photo on Right:

Jamie Brown (center), a great supporter of our mission in the Philippines is pictured here with Sr. Babylyn (left) & Sr. Connie (right). "Thank you, Jamie," for all that you do for the children on our mission!



Super Bowl ~ February 4, 2018



Photo - below left corner: Cheerleaders cheering for the "under-dog" team at the Super Bowl! "Patriots vs. Eagles" Eagles won: 41:33 Cheerleaders are (from left to right): Sr. Mary Electa, Sr. Margaret Sikora, Sr. Hope Marie, Sr. Francis Arduini & Sr. Edward Marie



Winners of the Super Bowl Quarters:

- Sr. Loretta Bezner
- Sr. Miriam Joseph Boylan (won 2x's)
- Sr. Nancy Conboy
- Sr. Frances Flynn (won 3x's)
- Sr. Ann Merrill
- Sr. Clare Francis Murphy
- Sr. Mary Louise Natale
- Sr. Joan Margaret Ryan
- Sr. Edward Marie Tesiero



With a grateful heart ...



Gratitude is the best titude.



Dear Sisters & Friends ~

The family, Mr. Gerald Batcher and Sr. Theresa A. Clarizio, thank you for your Mass Remembrances, kind words and sympathy cards in the passing of my sister, Janet. Everyone has been so supportive of us at this time of loss and healing, and we are very grateful. We will continue to remember all in our own Masses and prayers. ~ Gratefully, Sr. Theresa Ann



500

Dear Sisters ~
Thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy at the death of our brother, Don.
You are ever in our thoughts & prayers.
~ Cordially, Sr. June & Sr. Teresa



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Dear Sisters ~

A very special "thank you" to all for your messages of sympathy, Masses offered, visits, etc., upon the death of my sister, Agnes. My family and I are most grateful. A Mass was offered in Ireland for your intentions. The blessing of Almighty God, the love and care of our Blessed Mother be with you. ~ With gratitude, Sr. Catherine





Dear Sisters ~

I would like to express my thanks to all of the Sisters who gave me cards, telephone calls, lighting of candles at OLA Shrine, computer condolences, promises of prayers & Masses during the news of my brother, Br. Leo, OFM's sudden death on May 28th. Br. Leo was cremated and his Franciscan family will have a Mass & interment during their annual retreat at Cochrane, AB, Canada on August 23rd. It's been a wonderful support to me. How blessed I am to be a member of the Atonement family. ~ With gratitude in my heart, Sr. Hope Marie



In Remembrance ...



Sr. Mary E. Stewart, SA 1947—2018



Sister Mary Elizabeth Stewart, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement of Graymoor, died on February 27, 2018 at the nursing care facility of Care One@Holmdel, Holmdel, NJ.

Sister Mary Elizabeth was born in Rochester, NY on August 19, 1947 to Phillamena (Hendron) and Harold James Stewart. Sister is survived by her Sisters in Community and her only brother, James. She is predeceased by her parents.

Sister entered the Community on October 1, 1976, professed her first vows on May 26, 1979 and her final vows on August 8, 1987.

As an Atonement missionary, Sister served in parish, pastoral and retreat ministries in New York: Amsterdam, St. Cecilia's in New York City. She lived at Mother Lurana House while ministering at local social service agencies.

After suffering a stroke in March 1987, Sister tried to continue ministering to individuals by giving talks at retreats. She later suffered another stroke on October 28, 2015 and thus began her need for higher levels of care until she died at Care One@Holmdel on February 27, 2018 while on Hospice. Sister requested cremation and a memorial service which will be held in New Jersey.





<u>Far Left</u>: Sr. Mary on Profession Day. <u>Left</u>: Sr. Mary with Sr. Lucille. <u>Top (L-R)</u>: Sr. Mary, Sr. Ann, Sr. Barbara & Sr. Anthony Therese

In Remembrance ...

Sister Mary Kinsinger, age 83, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, died on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at *Lurana Health Care Residence* at St. Francis Convent, Garrison, NY.

Sister Mary was born in Shenandoah, PA on July 3, 1934 to Anastasia F. (Mencavage) and Henry J. Kinsinger. Sister is survived by her Sisters in Community and her sisters, Isabel Lopez and Regina DeMichele, as well as numerous nieces & nephews.

Sister Mary entered the Community on April 4, 1953, professed her first vows on October 15, 1954 and her final vows on September 3, 1960. As an Atonement missionary for 65 years she served in parish and catechetical ministries in Deal, New Jersey; Bingham Canyon & Copperton, Utah; Atwater, Merced and Placerville, California; Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada; and in Amsterdam, New York before returning to Graymoor in 2009.

The Reception of the Body prayer service and the Evening Prayer wake service were both held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 in the Motherhouse chapel. Sister's funeral Mass was held on Friday, May 4, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Burial was held in the Sisters' Cemetery at Graymoor. Funeral arrangements were by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home.



Sr. Mary Kinsinger, SA 1934—2018











Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord ...

Agnes Quinn, 02/18/18	Sister of Sr. Catherine T. Ryan
Sr. Mary E. Stewart SA, 02/27/18	Franciscan Sister of the Atonement
Leonila Cuevas Orac, 03/08/18	Aunt of Sr. Filipina (Yna) Cuevas NSA
Janet Batcher, 03/10/18	Sister of Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio
Patty Murphy, 04/09/18	Sister of Sr. Maureen Murphy (RIP)
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Fr. Raymond ('Mon') Luis SA, 04/17/18	. , . ,
	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Fr. Raymond ('Mon') Luis SA, 04/17/18	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement Brother of Srs. June & Teresa Schlereth
Fr. Raymond ('Mon') Luis SA, 04/17/18 Donald J. Schlereth, 04/22/18	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement Brother of Srs. June & Teresa Schlereth Franciscan Sister of the Atonement

... and let perpetual light shine upon them!

Sisters' Jubilee Celebration at Graymoor

will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2018. *Jubilarians* are:
Sr. Consiline (75 yrs.), Sr. Mavis (50 yrs.)
and Sr. Lucinda May (25 yrs.)



Sisters' Annual Retreat at Graymoor

will be held from September 17—21, 2018 at the Motherhouse. Fr. Tom Orians, SA will be the Retreat Director.

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE:

The DEADLINE to submit information for the <u>next</u> <u>Community Notes & News Newsletter</u> is July 15, 2018.

~~ It will be the SUMMER Issue and will cover the months of: MAY, JUNE & JULY 2018 ~~

Please send Newsletter articles & information directly to Sr. Denise either through postal mail or e-mail. If you set your own article, Microsoft Publisher is the preferred program of choice; otherwise, it will be re-set.

Email information to: secretarygeneral@graymoor.org

There is "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