

Community Notes & News

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT

May, June & July 2017

Editors: Sr. Denise Robillard & Sr. Rosanne McDonald

Born of the Spirit...



*...we are sent to
serve the Lord.*
Photo by Kim Song, 2013
From John 3:7-9



Sr. Loretta Guevarra, SA
Diamond Jubilarian



Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio, SA
Golden Jubilarian

Congratulations, Jubilarians!



Sr. Joanne Macaulay, SA
Golden Jubilarian

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



On July 9, 2017 our Leadership Team recognized the completion of one year of service in our five-year term. With the passage of a complete year, sharing a *State of the Community* report for membership allowed me to convey a true picture of the ‘now’ reality and also share my personal accountability for this role of Minister General.

Providing an up-to-date overview of our congregation obviously can be a reality check! Reviewing census numbers, age cohorts, and median age projections provides a real eye-opener to each of us. But the essence of “who” we are cannot be articulated through any numbers or statistics! To get a real sense of the *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement* one would need to enter into our day-to-day reality! It is in the sharing of community life that we witness to “who” we are in at-one-ment.

In our last newsletter I shared with you our congregational *Mission Statement* and *Vision Statement*. Those words allowed you a snapshot of what makes us tick, what grounds us in our commitment, and what ignites a passion within us!

Recently I was interviewed for the project we are involved in with *PLANit SOUND, INC.* One of the first questions asked was ‘what is the mission of the community?’ My response was imbedded in one focus ~ John 17:21 ~ ‘that all may be one ... that the world may believe that you sent me.’ Truly we know that it is our passion for unity that motivates us in all that we do!

In early July, I finally viewed the DVD ‘Hidden Figures’ ~ what an incredible movie! The facts of that movie and my work on preparing the *State of the Community* report gave me pause to reflect on the concept of commitment! My reflections drew me to a deepened awareness of the ‘behind-the-scenes’ reality of commitment that is so very foundational to everything. Just as the valiant women of ‘Hidden Figures’ were essential to all they were involved in, so too, the many Sisters of our congregation who carry out the ‘mission’ each day are critical to ‘who’ we are as community! No matter the age or stage of our Sisters, through the gifts of the Spirit, we strive to be viable ...

~ women of truth,
~ women of simplicity,
~ women of reconciliation,
~ women of at-one-ment!

As we set sail in confident hope, we pray the Spirit will continue to enlighten us to be instruments of peace and joy with all whom we encounter.

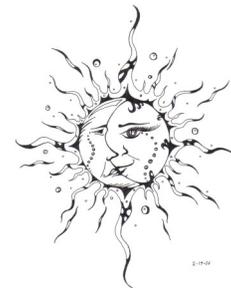
~ Sr. Mary Patricia Galvin



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

News from our Motherhouse

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



Here we are at the Motherhouse, Graymoor, the day after the 4th of July, 2017.

Yesterday, Mother Nature smiled on us and the Sisters attending our annual 'picnic,' got to enjoy the sunshine in the courtyard. Our next big event is Sunday, the Feast of our Lady of the Atonement. We have invited our Friars from the Mountain to join us for the festive dinner following our 11:00 am Mass. We have eight Friars coming. In June, our Sisters' & Friars' Jubilees came and were celebrated with a mix of communities. We were especially happy that Sisters Joanne Macaulay and Cecilia Marie Hensel were able to join us from Edmonton.

Let us hearken back to our last *Community Notes and News*, where I am sure you saw and enjoyed seeing some of our lovely faces decked out with "Easter Bonnets!" The inspiration for having an 'Easter Bonnet' Contest came from my memory of Sr. Mary Helena. She was always ready to get into costume for any occasion. Sr. Mary Helena enjoyed life and left us early; yet we still celebrate, gratefully.

Since our last Newsletter, we also prayed and journeyed with Sr. Susan Boyle and our Sisters in the Philippines. Sr. Mary Pat, who was there with Susan when God called her home, carefully brought Susan's remains home to Graymoor and we celebrated Susan's life and death here on June 4th and 5th. We continue in prayer for our Sisters in the Philippines, especially for Sr. Marianne Rohrer in her transition from Vancouver. Sr. Marianne celebrated her July 4th birthday with the Sisters in Paliparan ~ new life and new life experiences! Congratulations!

The month of June also saw us sitting and praying with Sr. Patricia Shaughnessy as she finished her journey home to God. Pat's brother, John, came up from Florida to visit her in the Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt Manor a week or so before she died. Thankfully, Sr. Pat knew her brother and was so happy to see him. Sr. Pat Shaughnessy left us on June 22 about 1:45 p.m. Four of us had gone to visit the nearby Buddhist Monastery in Carmel and Moo Moo's Ice Cream Parlor in Cold Spring when Sr. Mary Pat phoned my cell to tell us Sr. Pat had died.

July and summer bring dates of vacations and retreats for many of the Sisters living here at the Motherhouse, as well as Mission Appeal travel here in New York and New England. July 15th and 16th will find me in Williston and Richmond, Vermont, speaking about the needs in Brazil and the Philippines. May God bless all our endeavors for our missions. We are looking forward to the opening of our new 'mission' in Port Chester, NY. New life, new opportunity! Isn't that great?

Please, think and pray for all of us when you read these meager words, and know that we also think and pray for each of you. God is good. ~ *Sister Leila, SA*



*Blessings of
God's summer
sun, breezes and
cooling water be
with you and
renew you to
continue to
minister in
God's name.*



Lurana Health Care Residence Sharings

by Sr. Elizabeth ("Betty") Kolb, RSHM



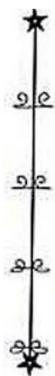
These past three months at Lurana Health Care have been filled with mixed blessings! The Sisters have enjoyed the nice weather, being out of doors a few times when weather permitted. It is always wonderful to hear the laughter as they enjoy each other and the gorgeous sunshine.

Throughout Lent, many Sisters participated in our "First Annual Walk-a-thon." In May, we had a party to celebrate the "walkers" and to present the proceeds raised to the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Ice-cream and many homemade toppings were offered to all in attendance. In addition, those who walked received certificates of appreciation. \$1,000.00 was given to the Ambulance Corp. and smaller amounts were presented to the Sisters' mission in the Philippines, to Catholic Relief Services and to the Motherhouse.

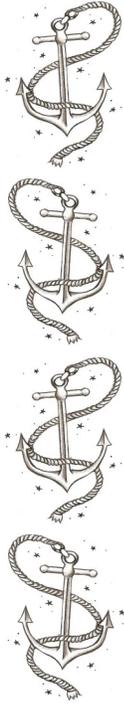
On May 22, 2017 the RSVP singers and dancers came and entertained the Sisters. Feet were tapping and hands were clapping to the fabulous music, song and dance they provided!

In June, three recent graduates from our local High School came and offered manicures to the Sisters. They simply pushed back cuticles, filed nails, and massaged hands with nice hand lotion. What was particularly wonderful was the conversation. These young women gave of their time to the Sisters who shared their stories with them. The smiles said it all! Both benefited from the encounter. On June 17, 2017, Sr. Loretta Guevarra celebrated 75 years of Religious Life as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement. Her Diamond Jubilee was cause for true celebration. And on June 22nd, Sr. Patricia Shaughnessy went home to God. She is missed profoundly!

In July, Br. Gregory Lucrezia (Atonement Friar), arrived with his accordion in tow to entertain the Sisters. Playing "by ear," he took many requests! Some Sisters knew every word to the songs and sang out. The music varied from "Panis Angelicus" to "I Did It My Way!" Everyone had a good time!



Celebrating Jubilee Joy!



Jubilarians 2017

Jubilee Celebration
June 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Motherhouse Chapel
St. Francis Convent

Diamond Jubilarian
Sr. Loretta Guevarra, SA

Golden Jubilarians
Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio, SA
Sr. Joanne Macaulay, SA

Dinner follows in Motherhouse Dining Room
- Guests & Sisters -



(Far Left):
Sr. Theresa Ann &
Sr. Joanne at Mass

(Left): Sisters
Clare Frances,
Joanne & Nancy

(Right):
Sr. Mary Emerson
& Sr. Joanne



(Left): Sr. Joanne &
Sr. Consiline visiting.

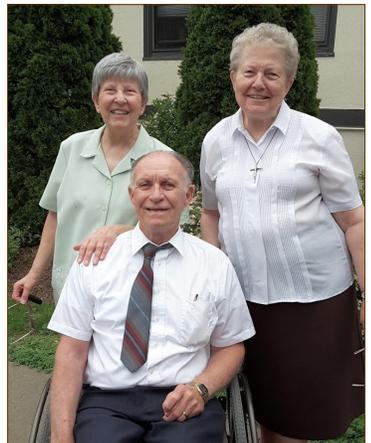
(Right / L-R):
Sr. Leila, Sr. Mary
Mulligan, Sr. Theresa
Ann, Sr. Joanne,
Sr. Loretta;
Fr. Jim Loughran SA,
Br. Joe O'Gara SA,
Sr. Mary Pat and
Sr. Mary Harper



(Far Left):
Sisters:
Mary Pat, Joanne,
Theresa Ann &
Loretta

(Center):
Sisters Thomas
Marie, Denise &
Ann Joseph

(Right):
Sr. Theresa Ann
with her sister,
Janet & brother-in-
law, Jerry



Celebrating Jubilee Joy!



Sr. Loretta Guevarra
Entrance: July 16, 1942



Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio
Entrance: September 8, 1967



Sr. Joanne Macaulay
Entrance: September 7, 1967



Sr. Loretta, Sr. Theresa Ann & Sr. Joanne



Sr. Nancy, Fr. John Keane, Sr. Diane



With joy and praise to our God for the gift of each of our Jubilarians, we celebrated a wonderful day of **Jubilee joy on June 17, 2017!**

Thank you, Sisters:

Loretta, Theresa Ann & Joanne for your “yes” that has brought each of you to this day of joy!

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



by Sr. Margaret Sikora



Food. We all eat. We all need food for our sustenance. Does our awareness of the relationship between Food and Environment affect our food choices? World Environment Day on June 5th was a reminder of the need to care for our environment so we can pass on a sustainable Mother Earth capable of feeding and providing for future generations.

Do you know how changing climate impacts on food production?

Droughts, floods, temperature swings caused by greenhouse gases disrupt planting and harvesting seasons, and quantities of food available for consumption.

“Agriculture is among the greatest contributors to global warming, emitting more greenhouse gases than all our cars, trucks, trains and airplanes combined largely from methane released by cattle and rice farms, nitrous oxide from fertilized fields, and carbon dioxide from the cutting of rain forests to grow crops or raise livestock.”

“Farming is the thirstiest user of our precious water supplies and a major polluter, as run-off from fertilizers and manure disrupts fragile lakes, rivers, and coastal ecosystems across the globe.”

“Agriculture also accelerates the loss of biodiversity. As we've cleared areas of grassland and forest for farms, we've lost crucial habitat, making agriculture a major driver of wildlife extinction.” (*Excerpt from Jonathon Foley, National Geographic*)

“Livestock accounts for almost half of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by agriculture. Meat from ruminants fares poorly compared with other foods. Kilograms of CO₂ equivalent per kilogram of consumed food are as follows: Emissions from corn-fed cattle: Lamb, 39.2; Beef, 27.0; Cheese, 13.5; Pork, 12.1; Chicken, 6.9.”
US EPA, Environmental Working Group, Union of Concerned Scientists.

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development...”
In *Laudato Si*, Number 13, Pope Francis challenges us throughout the encyclical to be mindful of the effects of climate change on the marginalized not only for basic needs as food, but also for our home Mother Earth. The UN General Assembly adopted Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and goals 2 and 12 speak to the issue regarding world hunger and food consumption and our responsibility to assist those suffering from malnutrition.

Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, *Secretary General of World Council of Churches*, described food “as a ‘gift of God’ that contributes to both our physical and spiritual sustenance. He noted on May 21, 2017 that 20-million people are at risk of starvation and millions more are suffering from drought and food shortages ... Each day, Tveit said, we pray the Lord's prayer and we appeal to God to ‘give us this day our daily bread.’ It is a prayer for food and all that we need to be sustained as God's creation.” ~ Br. Kevin Cauley, *Carbon Rangers*

As we ask God to give us our daily bread, are we mindful of our brothers and sisters in need? **How can our food choices promote its sustainability for all peoples?**



News from Graymoor



- **Did you know** that the Graymoor Sisters made front page news in *The Putnam County News and Recorder* on Wednesday, May 24, 2017?
- **The headline read: 258 Miles, One Lap Around the Building At A Time** ~ featuring a picture of Sr. Frances Arduini with her award ribbon and certificate for participating in the Lenten Walk-a-thon. Each lap was marked with a pencil scratch by her name on the clipboard at the end of the hallway in the Assisted Living Wing.
- **A new intern at the newspaper, Mary-Margaret Dwyer**, came to cover the big story. She is from Haldane High School's Class of 2017 of Cold Spring, NY. Mary-Margaret is going to university in September 2017 to begin her studies in journalism.
- **There were 10 Sisters who signed up to be walkers** (Sisters Francis Arduini, Theresa Ann Clarizio, Margaret Liam Glenane, Loretta Guevarra, Mary Harper, Rosanne McDonald, Marjorie Moon, Margaret Sikora, Leila Spaulding, and Betty Kolb, RSHM). Other Sisters, employees, family and friends supported the Sisters in this endeavor.
- **The Walk-a-thon raised \$1,812.50** ~ and \$1,000 of that amount went to the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Equal amounts of \$271.00 went to our mission in the Philippines, Catholic Relief Services and to assist the Motherhouse.



(Left) Cooper Cardenas of the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps formally received the \$1,000.00 check from Sr. Leila Spaulding on behalf of the Sisters. Cooper said, "The Sisters are always kind to us and donate when they can. The Ambulance Corps is very appreciative for all they do."

Cooper shared with some of us that, as of this day, he completed and passed all of his testing and requirements to become an official EMT for the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We congratulate you, Cooper and pray for God's safety and blessings to be with you!



(Left) Sr. Betty presents a Walk-a-thon certificate to Sr. Loretta Guevarra. Sr. Nancy Conboy is also in the photo.

(Right): Mary-Margaret Dwyer takes notes for her newspaper column as Sr. Betty presents a certificate to Sr. Frances Arduini



(Left)
The Walk-a-thon Sisters.
Congratulations to each of you and thank you for all you did!

(Right) Sr. Frances with her Walk-a-thon certificate.

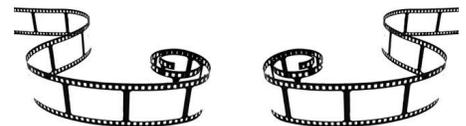


Lights! Camera! Action!



PLANit Sound, Inc. ... “a small company based in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada committed to assist in growing organizations through the power of high quality creative audio and video.”

Having contracted with **PLANit Sound, Inc.** to produce a video and anthem for our congregation, we recently found ourselves here at Graymoor in the midst of filming! Company owners, *Rowena* and *R.J. Cui*, were on site Saturday, July 8 – Wednesday, July 12. Cinematographer, *Lisa Fryklund*, quickly got busy filming the Graymoor property and the Sisters. Interviews were held on July 10 and 11 with some Sisters, *Friar Jim Gardiner* and a long-time retreatant affectionately known as ‘*Donuts*.’ We look forward to sharing the fruits of these labors as our project continues! Enjoy a few shots of our recent experience ...



Top Left: RJ & Rowena Cui

Top Right:

Rowena Cui, Lisa Fryklund, and R.J. Cui
 Left (L-R): Sr. Roberta, Sr. Denise, Sr. Diane,
 Sr. Marjorie, Sr. Theresa Ann,
 Sr. Mary Louise, Sr. Lucinda May, Sr. Nancy,
 Sr. Mary Pat, and Sr. Marie

Above:

(same as left, inclusive of R.J., Rowena & Lisa)

News from the Washington Retreat House



(Left) Vocation Promotion Day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Memorial Hall on May 9, 2017 with Srs. Josephine Dullaghan and Margaret Connolly with two young ladies sharing information. Thanks to our photographer, Sr. Mary Electa Barber for the photo.



(Right & Center Left)

Our next door neighbors, the Little Sisters of the Poor, came for an afternoon cup of tea and a visit. Some of the Little Sisters had never seen our retreat house. They were invited to come and enjoy time away!



(Left & Above) Our Lady of the Atonement Day sharing a meal with Fr. Donald Howard, SA and the Washington/Maryland Associates

Attention: Associates

“Meeting at the Well”

will be held at Graymoor from October 2-5, 2017.

This gathering is open to all our Associates.

Final reservations must be made by August 12, 2017.

For reservations or questions contact Sr. Mary Electa Barber.

Email: mebarber@graymoor.org



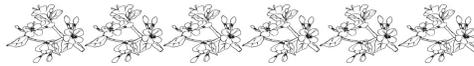
(Above)
The “Well” at Graymoor



News about our *Associates* in California



~ submitted by Sr. Dolores Fenzel, SA ~



On Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the Old Mission Teaching Center in San Juan Bautista, our Associates from Seaside, Castroville, Hollister, and Mission San Juan Bautista had a fundraiser for our mission in the Philippines.

They offered a menu of Filipino food for either “Take-Out” or “Eat-In” on the premises at the Center. The menu included: pancit, (*fried rice noodles with meat, seafood and vegetables*), lumpia, (*Filipino version of spring-roll*), rice, chicken adobo and for dessert—bibingca (*rice cakes made with rice cake flour, coconut milk or water & other ingredients — usually served as a special dessert at Christmastime*).

Sr. Carmelita and I were very happy to hear of the Associates’ idea of assisting our Filipino mission. We will let you know how they succeeded.



On the **Feast Day of Our Lady of the Atonement**, a group of these Associates met in our San Juan Convent chapel and afterwards had a barbeque. It was touching to see the Associates take every opportunity to pray and celebrate with us. Sr. Carmelita invited her nephew to join us at the barbeque.



Our Lady of the Atonement Feast Day



~ July 9, 2017 ~ Celebrating together at St. Anthony's Guest House in Assisi, Italy ~

Our Sisters in Assisi joined together to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Atonement at Saint Anthony's Guest House in Assisi, Italy along with Fr. Jim Loughran, Vicar General of the Atonement Friars, Fr. Ken Cienik, Br. Paolo Nicosia (Novice) & other Pilgrim guests.



(Right) Three of our Sisters at the **Washington Retreat House** as they celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Atonement in Washington, D.C. The decorated chapel is pictured on the left.



Good News from California



San Clemente Mission Church Celebration

by Sr. Kathleen Bogue, SA

Some months ago I was invited to a dinner at San Clemente Mission Parish in Bakersfield, CA with the assurance that some celebrities would be there. WOW, who would not accept such an invite! Yes, I got all dressed up and made my way to San Clemente Hall. Sure enough, there was Elvis Presley who was waiting to greet me and sang, "He Touched Me." His voice was a little raspy and sometimes he was off key, but I think he said, amidst much laughter, that he had laryngitis. Then there was Charlie Chaplin who lost his mustache on my shoulder when he hugged me; but with directions from the audience, I put it back on him ... and a little crooked perhaps! And of course, Marilyn

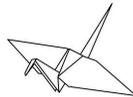
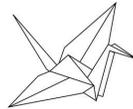
Monroe led us in singing, "Happy Birthday." We all had a fun evening as some of the parishioners recalled memories of our Sisters who ministered in San Clemente parish in years gone by, among whom were Sisters Carol Daul, Mary-Lou and several others whose names had faded from their memories. It was truly a fun evening ... one that brightened my journey as I continue to minister to the people in Bakersfield.

News from our Sisters in Japan

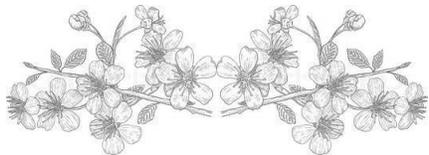
~ submitted by Sr. Mavis DeMan



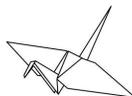
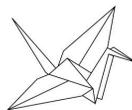
“We have Mass in our Convent chapel once a month and parishioners join with us to celebrate. Seated in the first row of this group are the four of us Sisters, Fr. Ichioka, our Pastor and two of the Sisters of Mercy. Father put this picture on his Facebook page and one of the mothers of our kindergarten saw it and she decided to come here for Mass. Three of the other people are from the Yamato Church (where we lived before moving into the new convent in Chigasaki). One of them plays the organ for the Mass.”



“This is a picture of my first English Class here in Chigasaki. The two students studied with me in Yamato and they wanted to continue; so when I started classes here they came to class as well as Mass. They travel here by train or car, taking nearly an hour. They are serious students. Our classes are held in the little house (which is located on our property just behind the new convent). We use this house for various classes and hope to have more use of it in the future. It is listed as *Novitiate and House of Prayer.*”



“These are my students in my second class in Chigaski. We meet every Wednesday afternoon. One of the women drives from Nakayama every week; it takes a good hour.”



“This is my first grade class in Chigasaki. Today was our third class. She says English is hard but she has fun while learning. I try to combine some fun time along with the reading and writing. Today we played a memory game with her English words. As she turned the cards over, she read the word and made pairs. At the end of the class we played the old stand-by, Fish.”

More News from Japan... ~ submitted by Sr. Mavis

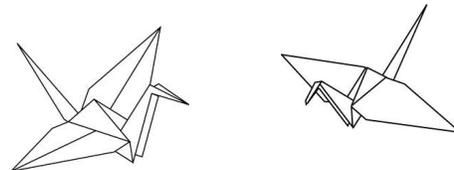


“Srs. Mary Stella and Angela Marie had their last religion class of the semester on July 15, 2017. Today, the children’s mother also came to class. They started in chapel with prayer, then moved to the other building to play. They talked about Jonah and then they played “fishpond” (see photos). Inside each fish was a small prize. Then they ate ice cream and enjoyed the rest of their class time.

Apart from these activities, Sr. Mary Stella is also involved with 100 weeks of Scripture and a preparation class for the parents of children who were baptized earlier this year. Sr. Angela Marie is involved with *Lectio Divina*. Sr. Paul Miki works one day a month at the parish’s gift shop. She is also a Eucharist Minister for the parish. Everyone is keeping well and we are gradually fitting into our new parish home.”



“These are my adult students at the *Atonement Center in Yokohama*. I have two classes there every Thursday. I drive about an hour to get to these classes and I have been teaching there for about 25 years.”



“These boys are in Grade 6 and attend English classes at the *Atonement Center*. They have been attending for about three years.”

News from the Philippines!



Greetings from Cavite, Philippines!



I want to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank you for your prayers. The Sisters, our Staff in the ministry, as well as the young teenagers living on the site, are very grateful that you are holding us in prayer each day. We definitely feel God's Presence here.

Sisters, you have seen photos of our three Novices, Filipina (Yna) Cuevas, Cynthia Carlos and Rosa Xiang. Now you will be able to learn a bit more about them. I have asked them to write a paragraph, choosing a topic, perhaps their present ministry. The following is their work. Keep in mind that English is their second or third language. ~ *Sr. Marianne Rohrer*



Once upon a Sunday ...



It was Sunday and the regular schedule is: Mass in the morning, main meal at lunch, Holy Hour in the afternoon, followed by activities involving our community. However, June 18th was more exciting than the past Sundays because we went on a trip with the children and the staff from the ministry - 30 in total. We travelled by van from Cavite to Pangasinan. Although we were still sleepy from leaving early (4 am), there was that feeling of excitement with all of us.

We arrived by mid-morning in Alaminos City - six hours later. We took three boats to the Hundred Islands. (We didn't really go to each island, that might take us a week!) The scenery was beautiful; small green islands that looked like emeralds scattered on crystal clear waters, white sand, and the sun was glowing brightly (sunburn threat for the Americans). I enjoyed the waters with the Atonement youth and with the children; the Sisters didn't swim and we had so much fun under the sun or on the big rocks. We were tired (really tired) afterwards, but that really was one happy trip ... once upon a Sunday ... at one Hundred Islands (when I was scheduled to cook!) ~ *Sr. Filipina (Yna) Cuevas, NSA*



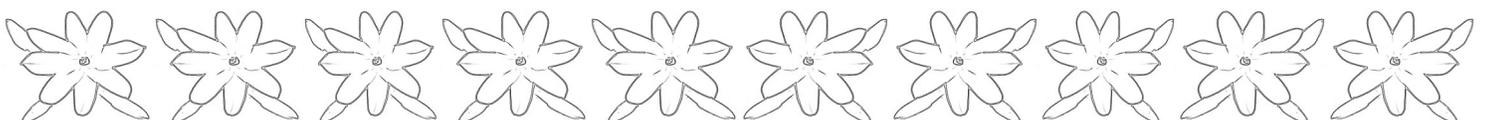
The Birthday Party



The Mother Lurana Ministries and Community Development Center opened a feeding program for children on October 4, 2016. Every morning, Monday through Friday, you will see many children in front of our gate, waiting to be fed. They are very hopeful that they can have their lunch before going to school. There are three groups from 10:30 to 12 noon. Some children have to be picked-up at a certain meeting place by our multi-van. It seems that I am at a *Birthday Party* each day. They are so thankful for the blessing for the food they receive.

There is a little boy about three years old and his name is Rap-rap. The first time he saw Sr. Marianne, he cried because she is very tall and white. We tried to appease him by telling him that Sr. Marianne is a Sister, a good Sister. She also does help one of his friends, Pao-pao, to eat. Today after two weeks, Pao-pao was not crying because Sr. Marianne made a smiley face on his plate with catsup.

It is a wonderful experience to be assigned in the feeding program, to help prepare the food, helping the little ones eat and to serve them. I am grateful. ~ *Sr. Cynthia Carlos, NSA*



... continued from the Philippines!

The Healing Clinic

One of the ministries at the Mother Lurana Development Center is an Integrative Alternative Clinic. It is there that I have the opportunity to practice my profession as a Medical Acupuncturist.

Paliparan, Cavite is one of the poorest areas in the Philippines. When the clinic was opened many people came, because the service was free of charge. However, when we realized that those coming were not from this area, we decided to ask for a small donation. Now very few patients attend. Reflecting on my experience, I feel happy that I was able to help some patients feel better. I thank our Community for entrusting me with this ministry. I am just an instrument of God, willing to help people who need my assistance. ~ *Sr. Rosa Xiang, NSA*



The Novice Formator



Thanks to your prayers and thoughts, I am still here and have not returned back to Vancouver, yet. To be honest, when Sr. Susan proposed the idea of coming to the Philippines, I gave the idea a brief thought because I was still very involved in Vancouver. Then the thought never returned until one sunny morning as I was driving (my car) to visit Sr. Margaret Fujisawa when Sr. Mary Pat called and asked me to consider being the Novice Formator in the Philippines. I won't tell you my first response but as you know, God intervened and so I changed my address.

Yes, I find there are a lot of challenges: the hot, humid weather, the alarm clock sounds beginning around 3 a.m., cows, roosters, bugs, etc., the change of food. But none of these equals the benefits of living in Cavite. One of my greatest joys is being greeted whenever I meet a child, they grab your hand and place it on their forehead. I just want to bend down and take their little, dirty hand and place it on my forehead. Asking a blessing from them.

Living and working with our Novices is another one of my joys. They are so eager to become Professed members of our Community. It was difficult for them to say goodbye to Sr. Susan and to accept me as their Novice Formator, but they are trying hard and making good progress. We begin our Modular classes next week. Already we participated three days in a workshop with the Enneagram. I look forward to meeting other Formators. Please continue your prayers, thoughts, and emails. They are greatly appreciated. ~ *Sr. Marianne Rohrer*



(L to R) May 2017 ~ Sr. Mary Patricia, *Minister General* with Sr. Marianne, and Novices: Sr. Cynthia, Sr. Rosa, and Sr. Yna.



Sr. Marianne instructing the Novices on our Charism.

... continued from the Philippines!



Our **NOVICES** begin their formation journey with Sr. Marianne.

Please remember them in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them on their way.



(Right): →
Our novice, Sr. Cynthia, helps feed lunch to a young child at our **Mother Lurana Ministries and Community Development Center** in Cavite.



(Below): Our novice, Sr. Yna, has caught on to the spirit of, "*We joy in God*" in all things ~ including washing pots and pans!
Blessings on you all for what you do for the Lord's littlest ones.



← (Left): Our novice, Sr. Rosa, welcomes patients to the **Integrative Alternative Clinic** at the Mother Lurana Development Center where she practices her profession as a **Medical Acupuncturist**.



↑
(Above): Pao-pao and his new friend, Sr. Marianne.

(Below):
Sr. Marianne Rohrer, *Novice Formator* (second from left), joins Novices: Yna, Rosa, and Cynthia on a bicycle built for four!



The May crowning of Our Lady of the Atonement in the chapel at Paliparan, Cavite.

May Our Lady of the Atonement care and protect the people of the Philippines and in the whole world...



Sisters in the News!

Two of our Sisters were recently featured in newspapers:

Sr. Loretta Guevarra in *The Highlands Currents* on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee, and Sr. Ellen Donahue in the *North Country Catholic* on the occasion of her leaving the Diocese of Ogdensburg after 22 years of service in parishes and in Diocesan offices.

God bless these dedicated women for their ministry to God's People! May each of you continue to be blessed in many ways into the future!

Complete articles could not be published in this Newsletter, however, we offer you a 'snippet' of some of the pages from those newspapers:

FAREWELL, SR. ELLEN

After 22 years of service



News from the North Country Catholic August 2, 2017

PHOTO BY LINDA ROSS

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue is leaving the Diocese of Ogdensburg after 22 years of service in parishes and in the diocesan offices. Most recently, she has worked as episcopal delegate for religious and director of the Office of Safe Environment. Sister Ellen responded to questions from the *North Country Catholic* about her life and ministry with a reflection on how she has been able to "stand on the shoulders" of so many people in the diocese.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

8 DIOCESAN LIFE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC AUG. 2, 2017

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue looks back on 22 years of ministry in the North Country

Standing on the shoulders

By Sister Ellen Donahue, S.A.
Retiring Episcopal Delegate for Religious and director of Office of Safe Environment

Nearly 22 years of my life I have ministered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I worked in Saco, Maine; Lindsey, California; and Elmira, New York; before coming to my home diocese.

I was asked to come to the diocese in 1968 and worked for the Diocesan Office of Religious Education under Father Stephen Nevin. Atonement Sisters Marcia LaFave and William James

I left Ogdensburg in 1975 to complete graduate studies at Catholic University and then returned to Saco, Maine for a second ministry assignment with the Holy Cross Fathers. I was released from Saco to care for my mother in her blindness.

I returned to ministry in 1993 with Father John Yonkovig in St. Peter's, Plattsburgh and was elected to Major Superior of Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 2001.

In 2007 Bishop Robert Cunningham asked me to assume the roles of Episco-



Shown with members of the Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life, Sister Ellen said the council "contributes greatly to the unification of our varied religious congregations."

Editor's note

Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue retired in July after 22 years of service in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, most recently as Episcopal Delegate for Religious and director of the Office of Safe Environment. Here, the Franklin County native responds to questions from the *NCC* about the joys and challenges of her life and ministry.

meaningful experiences of faith sharing events.
Elaine Seymour, our

Standing



Shown above with other Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement of Ogdensburg, Sister Ellen said, said, "I believe my desire to serve God came from the way the pastor and the Sisters (in her parish growing up) treated us and called us to share faith through helping them teach in summer programs and volunteer social services in the parish."

(Above & Left) Articles from the *North Country Catholic* announcing Sr. Ellen's completion of 22 years of ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

(Right) Article in *The Highlands Current* sharing reflections on life after being a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement for 75 years ...

July 21, 2017 **The Highlands Current**



Sister Loretta Guevarra Photo by M. Turton

A Habit of Goodness

Graymoor's Sister Loretta celebrates 75 years of service

On June 17 Sister Loretta Guevarra, 92, celebrated her 75th year as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement. Born in Los Angeles in 1924 as Leonor Guevarra, she joined the Graymoor community in Garrison in 1942 and took her final vows as a nun in 1949.

As an Atonement missionary, the sister served for 31 years in Brazil, as well as in California, Oregon, Utah and New York City. She returned to Garrison last year to

reside at the St. Francis Convent, where Michael Turton met with her on July 18.

What did your parents do for a living?

My parents were Mexican. My father owned a hacienda in California. He gave young Mexican workers a patch of land and housing and in return they worked on the farm.

Did you give a lot of thought to becoming a nun or was it a spur of the moment decision?

I wanted to enter the convent when I was 12 years old, (Continued on Page 11)



~ Expressions of Gratitude ~

My dear Sisters, especially our Leadership Team, Friends and Associates,

Thank you for all your kindnesses, cards and generous gifts — before and after my beautiful Diamond Jubilee Celebration! I ask our Lord, in prayer, to send all His “blessings” on each of you: good health, peace, joy and what is needed for all of you to live a good life on earth. Thank you! I will never forget you.

~ My love and prayers, Sr. Loretta Guevarra

Dear Sisters, Family and Friends,



A note to thank you for your kind remembrance of me for my Golden Jubilee. We had a great day in every way. I enjoyed my family and friends as they enjoyed being here at Graymoor. Thank you to all who had a hand in the preparations of the Liturgy and the wonderful dinner—with a special note of gratitude to our Food Service Staff.

~ Continued prayers for all, Sr. Theresa Ann



Dear Sisters,

Jubilee was wonderful! One of the biggest gifts was being present at Graymoor and visiting with many of you. The spirit of your presence, community life and gifts enriched me. Thank you.

~ With my gratitude & prayers, Sr. Joanne Macaulay

Dear Sisters,



Thank you for your presence, prayers, support, Masses and kind words to me when my sister, Betty, died.

~ I am most grateful, Sr. Paul Marie Gouthro

Dear Sisters,



Thank you so much for your prayers, Masses, and kind words to me on the loss of my sister and last surviving member, Gloria. I really appreciate knowing I still have my Atonement family's support.

~ With gratitude, Sr. Bianca Grasso

Dear Sisters,



We wish to thank all of you for your prayerful support, your Masses, and for your loving cards at the time of our brother, Kieran's death. Both of us and our families are so grateful for your kindness and sympathy. God bless you.

~ Blessings, Sisters Consiline and Frances Flynn

Dear Sisters,



Sincere thanks! Your expressions of sympathy and condolences at the death of our sister, Bertha have been very supportive. The realization of what “community” means was truly felt. Thank you from both of us and our family.

Srs. June & Teresa Schlereth, SA



We Remember Your Great Love



Sr. Susan Boyle, SA
February 15, 1932 – May 26, 2017

Sr. Susan was born to Sarah (McGuinness) and William J. Boyle in Whitehill, Eglinton, Co. Derry in No. Ireland.

Susan entered the Postulancy of the FSA in Rossinver, Co. Leitrim, Eire on June 19, 1951. She entered the Novitiate at Graymoor on October 14, 1952; professed First Vows on October 17, 1953 and Final Vows on August 29, 1959.

As an Atonement missionary, Sr. Susan ministered in Deal, NJ, in Yokohama, Japan and in Leadership. She served as Third Councilor in 1972 and elected as First Councilor in 1976. In 1981, Sister was elected Superior General and was re-elected in 1986. In 1992, at the request of Bishop Hubert Bucher, Sister ministered in Bethlehem, So. Africa to assist the Sisters of St. Paul with their formation and mission. In 1994, Sr. Susan was sent to Edmonton to oversee the programs there. She later returned to So. Africa in 1994 as the Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Bethlehem. In 2002, she returned to Graymoor and was the Director of the Fund Development Office. Sister opened the Paliparan mission in Cavite, Philippines in 2010.

In her Legacy, Sr. Susan writes that she “had a great interest in other countries, cultures, languages, and way of life, and how we interact and integrate ... hopefully for the good of all.” She always hoped our congregation could become truly international with great respect for all people and religion. No “us” and “they” just “all are one in the One who sent us.”



Sr. Patricia Shaughnessy, SA
March 26, 1926 – June 22, 2017

Sr. Patricia was born to Nora M. (Otto) and William Shaughnessy in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Prior to entering, Patricia received her art degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY and later worked for a major greeting card company.

Patricia entered the Postulancy of the FSA at Graymoor on September 24, 1956. She professed her First Vows on April 16, 1958 and Final Vows on August 31, 1963.

As an Atonement missionary, Sr. Pat ministered in catechetical, parish and pastoral ministry in New York (Cobleskill, Amsterdam, Rocky Point, L.I., & Port Leyden). Also in: East St. John, N.B., Bandon, OR, Oildale, CA & No. Conway, NH. In retreat ministry at the Washington Retreat House and at OLA Retreat House at Graymoor; and in art ministry in Assisi, Italy & at Graymoor while also teaching art in all grades at St. Columbanus School, Cortlandt Manor for nine years.

In her Legacy, Sr. Pat wrote that her legacy is: “*My artwork throughout the years...to express our spirit...especially the Francis pictures.*”

Sr. Pat told, how in 1956, she came to Graymoor, knocked on the door, and told the Sister who answered, “*I have come to learn your way of life.*” She later came to know that she was given the gift of her art talent “*for the sake of the mission.*”

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord ...

Philomena Mangione, 05/18/2017.....	Sister of Sr. Carmel Finelli
Helen Lane, 05/09/2017.....	Associate from California
Elizabeth (Betty) Stubbert, 05/25/2017.....	Sister to Sr. Paul Marie Gouthro
Sr. Susan Boyle , 05/26/2017.....	Franciscan Sister of the Atonement
Gloria Esposito, 05/29/2017.....	Sister to Sr. Bianca Grasso
Kieran Flynn, 06/06/2017.....	Brother to Srs. Consiline and Frances Flynn
Sr. Patricia Shaughnessy , 06/22/2017.....	Franciscan Sister of the Atonement
Emma Mahistrado, 07/09/2017.....	Aunt of Sr. Babylyn Dulfo
Bertha Proctor, 07/13/17.....	Sister to Srs. June and Teresa Schlereth
Fr. Mark O'Connor , 07/14/17.....	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Sr. Edmund McGourty , 06/26/2017.....	Franciscan Sister of the Atonement
Jerry Olsen, 7/30/2016.....	Cousin to Sr. Mary Sarah Dolan



... and let perpetual light shine upon them!



Attention Reminder! “Associates” “Meeting at the Well”

will be held at Graymoor from October 2-5, 2017.

We're hoping you can come!

Final reservations must be made by August 12, 2017.

For reservations or questions contact Sr. Mary Electa Barber.

Email: mebarber@graymoor.org

Gratitude
is the best
attitude.

- Author Unknown



Sisters & Associates - PLEASE NOTE:

**The DEADLINE to submit information for the next
Community Notes & News Newsletter is October 15, 2017.**

~~ It will be the AUTUMN Issue and will cover the months of: August, September & October ~~

**Please send Newsletter articles & information directly to Sr. Denise
in Email (preferred) *OR* via “snail-mail” ...**

Email to my Office at: secretarygeneral@graymoor.org

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

No PDF pages, thank you! If you prepare the page yourself, MICROSOFT PUBLISHER is preferred!

Thank you and enjoy this Newsletter!

Editors: Sr. Denise Robillard & Sr. Rosanne McDonald