

Community Notes & News

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT

February, March, April 2015



Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

In calling us to live in the present with passion Pope Francis writes,
"Grateful remembrance of the past leads us, as we listen attentively to what the
Holy Spirit is saying to the Church today, to implement ever more fully the
essential aspects of our consecrated life."

– words of Pope Francis in a letter on Consecrated Life

Community Newsletter of the
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

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This is a quarterly newsletter; distributed at the end of these months:
January, April, July and October

Spring is in the Air at the Motherhouse

~ by Sr. Mary Pat Galvin, House Coordinator ~

These three months of **February/March/April** have provided us multiple opportunities to go 'beyond' our usual monthly activities of the Days of Recollection, House Meetings, birthday celebrations, bingo activities, and so many other moments of shared life. We have enjoyed other gatherings that surfaced according to the calendar of life!!!



We started off the month of **February** with the *World Day for Consecrated Life* ~ a celebratory liturgy and dinner with some of our Friars! Another highlight of the month is often the exchange of "prayer companion" bookmarks at our Valentine's Day celebration! With a promise of prayer for our SA Community Members we JOY IN GOD! We also entered into the season of *LENT* on Ash Wednesday ... a journey of reflection!

Perhaps the month of **March** gets a bad reputation as it comes in like a lion (or not) and leaves like a lamb (or not) ... *Mother Nature* has caused quite a stir in many ways this winter! We enjoyed some 'indoor' activities regardless of the outdoor weather! On Saturday the 14th we celebrated the closing of *Catholic Sisters Week* with a donut social sharing stories of our varied mission experiences! On Sunday the 22nd we enjoyed some lovely *Irish Step Dancers* with refreshments following to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick! We closed out the month celebrating Sr. Mary Bride's 85th Anniversary as an Atonement Sister!



Mother Nature's Blanket of White!



Finally ... SPRING!!!

This past month of **April** was a grace-filled time of reflection and celebration as we journeyed through our *Holy Week* as community with gratitude to our Friars for leading us in our Services. On Sunday the 12th in honor of *Mother Lurana's Birthday* we had our *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* to recognize many special people in our lives at Graymoor! Hosting our *East Coast Regional Meetings* is always a joy to us as we welcome our mission Sisters in hospitality and at-one-ment! We closed out the month celebrating *Sr. Barbara Ohl's gift of New Life* in eternal peace with gratitude for her life as an Atonement Missionary!

Our "Joy in God" Activities, Events and Experiences

February 2, 2015 ~ Monday

In Celebration of Consecrated Life



On Monday, February 2, 2015, Fr. Bernie Palka celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass in celebration of "Consecrated Life!"

Friars from the Inn, Fr. John Kiesling, Fr. Bill Drobach, Fr. John Coppinger & Br. John O'Hara also joined us for Mass & Dinner.



February 2, 2015

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

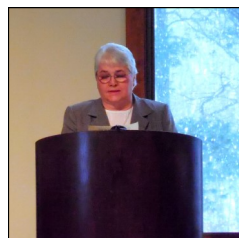
February 8, 2015 ~ Sunday ~ 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Open House ~ In Celebration of Consecrated Life

On Sunday, February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m., an OPEN HOUSE event was held at St. Francis convent. It was in celebration of the *Year of Consecrated Life*. The opening prayer service, held in the Motherhouse chapel, was composed and led by Sr. Diane.

Sisters toured our visitors through the first floor to the Multi-purpose Room on ground floor (our former chapel) where a DVD about the history of the Society of the Atonement was shown.

Tours of the property had to be cancelled due to snowy weather, but everyone shared conversation and refreshments in the main dining room.



“SIGNS OF NEW LIFE”

~ by Sr. Mary Pat Galvin, Administrative Liaison ~

With the month of **March** some ‘signs of new life’ appeared around Graymoor ~ not just the hope for the season of spring ... but ... the hope for spring within the various seasons of life! *Sr. Eleanor White* of our Pastoral Care Department initiated an “Activity Calendar” with a variety of opportunities for all to participate! These activities drew forth the giftedness of some Sisters to share with others and in turn the others have gifted those who have shared! The following photos speak for themselves in the smiling faces exhibiting how we **JOY IN GOD** ... and one another!



Monthly Flute Concert

Above: Sr. Ann Joseph & Sr. Eleanor



Words of Wisdom in sharing of Mission Stories

Above: Sr. Eleanor, Pam, Sr. Bridget, Sr. Mary & Sr. Hope Marie



Dancing ~ In the spirit of Joy!

Above: Sr. Catherine T. & Sr. Eleanor



Monthly Piano Sing-Along

Above: Sr. Mary Louise



Musical Accompaniment

Top Left: Sr. Ita at the piano



Weekly Puzzle Meeting

Above:
Sr. Colette & Sr. Mary Laetitia



Weekly Game Playing

Top Right:
Sr. Hope Marie & Sr. Mary Theresa



Monthly Story Sharing and Joke Telling

Left:
Sr. Rosanne, Sr. Hope Marie, Sr. Mary Bride, Sr. Mary Liam, and Sr. Rosita



Laughter is the “best” medicine

Right: June, Sr. Helen, Sr. Loretta & Sr. Mary Theresa

A Sunday afternoon of Song & Dance



On **Sunday, March 22**, we enjoyed an afternoon of traditional Irish songs & dance. **Mr. Pat Harding** from New Windsor, NY delighted us with the gift of his wonderful voice by singing beautiful Irish ballads & songs. The son of a County Offaly mom and a County Kilkenny dad, “Pat” is always happy to share the many songs that he has learned throughout his lifetime. It was an honor to have “Pat” sing these inspirational ballads & songs for us. Thank you, Pat! Come again! We then enjoyed the Irish dancing by several girls from the **Broesler School of Irish Dancing**. The eight girls wore traditional Irish costumes and demonstrated their high steps from several jigs and reels — adding to our enjoyment with every high kick. Among the girls present were the Fee triplets from our parish in Cold Spring, and the Mowen girls, who’s mother Catherine is one of our nurses at the Residence.



Ryan, 5, the youngest dancer poses with perfect grace and technique!



Above: Aileen, Angela, Clare (behind: Ryan), Mairead, Rory, Catriona



Above: Reily & Caroline
Below (Front row): Reily, Ryan, Clare & Caroline (Back Row): Aileen, Mairead, Catriona, and Angela.

Irish Step Dancing



Sr. Eileen, Pat Harding & Sr. Consiline



Sr. Agnes & Sr. Rosita share a moment with the Mowen girls, along with mom, Catherine, who is one of our nurses.

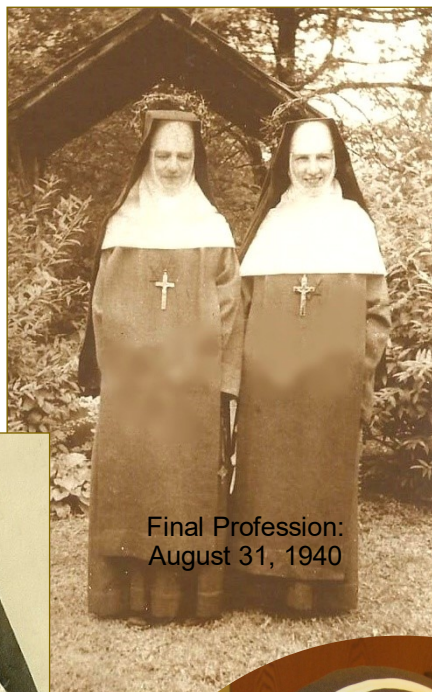


Celebrating 85 Years of Religious Life for Sr. Mary Bride Spratt, SA

Saturday, March 28, 2015



c. 1922-24



Final Profession:
August 31, 1940

In honor of Sr. Mary Bride's 85th Anniversary as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement, a special liturgy was celebrated on Saturday, March 28, 2015 in our Motherhouse chapel at St. Francis Convent, Graymoor.

These photos are an assortment from various years during the life and ministry of Sr. Mary Bride.

**God bless you,
Sister
Mary Bride!**

We rejoice with you for the gift of your life in Community.



At the Beach House
July 1964



c. 1950-55



May 2012 ~ visiting with Dervla



March 28, 2015



In Byram, CT, 1996



March 28, 2015



Golden Jubilee group—June 1980



2012

Lurana Health Care Residence

~ by Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio, Coordinator ~

We thought we saw the end of the snow when January turned into February! How wrong could we be? This did not, however, deter us from enjoying many wonder-filled events such as: Super Bowl Sunday, Open House in honor of the beginning of the Year for Consecrated Life for Religious, a visit to St. Patrick's Church in Bedford Village, NY to celebrate Consecrated Life with the parishioners, our monthly Birthday parties – held on Valentine's Day in February, a donut social, a beautiful Liturgy and tasty dinner on St. Patrick's Day, as well as celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph and the beginning of the Lenten season.

Looking out our windows, it just didn't seem that Spring had sprung on the 20th of March. It was still very cold and there was, oh, so much snow! This did not, however, stop the Kilkenny-Mowen girls (Reily, 12, Rory, 8 & Ryan, 5) and their Irish dance troupe friends who came and performed for us. A social in the Residence Dining Room followed, where we enjoyed visiting with the girls and their mothers.



The Feast of the Annunciation was celebrated with a beautiful Liturgy in our Motherhouse chapel, followed by a delicious dinner. The days passed and brought us to the highlight of the month of March, the **Celebration of Sr. Mary Bride Spratt's 85 Years as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement**. In attendance were some of our Friars, along with Sister's niece, nephew and a few good friends. It was a beautiful day in every way! God continue to bless you, Sr. Mary Bride.

The Holy Week Services, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday were just beautiful. The Sister's choir and the different readers did an excellent job with the music and the special readings. We then celebrated together again by sharing in a delicious Easter dinner prepared by our Morrison Food Service. Incorporated into the many monthly activities was a special time where all came together to have 'tea' – complete with lovely pastries and time to sit, relax and enjoy one another's company.

April brought us together once again with our Regional Meetings. Sisters from near and far gathered to share and discuss important community matters, and also to share conversation with one another. A highlight of April was the Benefit Concert planned by Sr. Eilish and the staff of the Development Office. *"Thank you"* Sr. Eilish, Margaret and Betsy for all your hard work in preparing such a wonderful concert ... it was truly great!

To each of you reading this now, we thank you for your remembrances of us ~ especially our senior Sisters in Lurana Health Care Residence. Your Easter remembrances and cards are always appreciated by the Sisters. We wish you a very relaxing, quiet, and peaceful summer. God bless each of you.

“A Spirit of Gratitude” at the Motherhouse

~ by Sr. Mary Pat Galvin, House Coordinator ~

If the only prayer one says is “*Thank You*” then that is surely enough! Gratitude is a word that resounds within our minds and hearts, and surely warrants expression in our reality!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On **April 12, 2015** we hosted our *Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* ... an opportunity to convey sincere gratitude to some of those who so willingly share of their time / talent / substance / opportunity ... **FOR ALL OF US!**



Above:
Fran and Joe
with Sr. Margaret



Left:
Kevin and Linda



Top Left (L-R):
Sr. Mary Kathleen,
Sr. Paul Marie,
Maryann Martinez &
Sr. Mary Emerson

Left:
Ish Martinez
& Sr. Ann Kathleen



Above: Sr. Nancy, **Kathy**, **Ron** & Sr. Eleanor



Future Community Calendar Events:

- May 7 to 9 - West Coast Regional Meeting
- May 10 - May Crowning at the Motherhouse
- May 17 - “Meet-a-Sister” Vocation Event at Sr. Maruja’s Parish
- May 17 - Sr. Marjorie’s Watercolor Art Exhibit at the Library in Garrison, NY
 - May 25 - Memorial Day Picnic at the Motherhouse
 - June 20 - Sisters’ Jubilee Celebration at Graymoor
 - July 4 - Fourth of July Picnic at the Motherhouse
- August 15 - Perpetual Profession of Vows of Sr. Virginia Santiago (at Graymoor)



Justice, Peace & INTEGRITY of CREATION

~ by Sr. Margaret Sikora ~

What is Earth asking?

During the last few months, several items of note have taken place. In early February, we signed as a Congregation in support of consistent scrutiny of the *full lifecycle process* of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) and maintain that the same right and responsibility to safeguard public health and safety, invoked in the recent decision to ban HVHF, must also be applied to New York State permit review process currently underway for the Spectra Algonquin Incremental Market pipeline expansion project. In this signing, we strongly urged the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to follow the precautionary principle cited by Acting Commissioner Zucker and to follow the same health review process in conjunction with NYS Department of Health (DOH) before any permits are issued. We further request that this process be open and transparent, allowing for full public participation. Resolutions calling for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) have also been issued by Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties, as well as by multiple impacted towns. This was one of ROAR's initiatives.

Later in February, our congregation responded to the LCWR action alert from the Coalition on Human Needs. We were one organization of 1,500 to sign on to the Children's Health--- Insurance Program Letter sent to the leaders of House & Senate and members of the subcommittee working on the legislation which would have stopped this funding later in 2015. This legislation passed 2/26/15.

We had also joined the many persons urging Governor Cuomo to provide wage increases to low income workers. On February 26, Acting Labor Commissioner Musolino issued his wage order. At the end of this year, New York's 229,000 tipped workers will get a 50 percent raise. The base wage for tipped workers will go from \$5 to \$7.50 an hour – and the Commissioner rejected the industry's attempt to add a confusing loophole reducing the wage for workers who make more tips. It did not cover as many low income workers as hoped, but it is a beginning.

The hard work of anti-trafficking advocates, including *LifeWay Network* members was rewarded when the New York State Assembly unanimously passed the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA) on March 23, 2015.

During Lent and continuing after Easter, Wednesday evenings found many of the Sisters attending weekly DVDs on Climate Change/Global Warming. We opened with *What is Earth Asking of Us?* Subtitled, *faith praxis cycle & global climate change*, prepared by the Earth Council of Dominican Sisters of North America. Divided into three segments, the first showed the 'Experience' of how climate change affected Sisters from Washington State land

slides to Illinois drought, Texas hurricanes and Super Storm Sandy in Long Beach, New York. The second segment 'Social Analysis' explored the influence of the corporate sector and asked which of the following systems – political, economic, social, cultural and religious – do we engage with in our daily life: Who benefits? Who decides? Who suffers? and finally, how do our investments mirror our concerns regarding global warming. The third segment was Theological Reflection where we were reminded of the words: 'God so loved the world. . .do I? Do we?' then asked: What changes does this call me/us to in the way we live our lives?

This Dominican film set the stage for the remaining films we used: the Showtime '*Living Dangerously*' series. These films paired areas of the U.S. impacted by hurricanes, drought, etc. with foreign countries, for example, how drought in our wheat belt and Russia's caused huge spikes in the price of bread in Egypt - one of their basic foods, resulting in the revolution there where the rallying cry was 'Freedom. Bread.' Drought also contributed to the civil war in Syria and other countries. Or how the demand for paper or palm oil for things like snacks, cosmetics or soaps like Dove, has driven the slash and burn deforestation in foreign lands. In dealing with Superstorm Sandy, other DVDs analyzed the differing responses of politicians, the role of social, cultural and some religious groups and the impact on the already poor, now often becoming homeless or refugees due to climate change. U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry called climate change "perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." He notes that to make meaningful progress, "the people need to demand that our elected officials take responsible action to craft a real energy policy." (quotes from Episode 4) Do I/we engage our legislators in these issues?

The whole world is suffering from the effects of the continued warming of the atmosphere caused by carbon emissions not only from transportation, but also from coal burning, fracking, deforestation and burning of trees in that process, that release the carbon they hold into the atmosphere. Ice melting is causing rising sea levels which caused problems such as Super Storm Sandy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY – an Energy Choice

"The hot water heater is the dirtiest carbon emitter in a house - 20% to 30% of energy use. In baptism, we affirm the preciousness of water as we receive God's grace. Continue this affirmation by taking a shower instead of a bath, and try to limit your shower to less than 5 minutes. Today take a "shipboard shower" - turn the water on only to rinse. Look into getting a more efficient shower with a "low-flow" shower head. An average bath uses 40-60 gallons of water; an average shower 17 gallons; a shipboard shower less than 5 gallons." Perhaps you will think before showering and choose this option more often in honor of your baptism and for the countless millions in Bangladesh and other countries who do not even have water for sustaining life and for basic sanitation. (2015 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast suggestion)

12th Annual Benefit Concert was held on April 19, 2015

*Sincere Gratitude from the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor
to all our Friends and Benefactors who supported our
12th Annual Benefit Concert on Sunday, April 19, 2015*



Katherine & Joe Dwyer



Joanie Madden



Joanie & Friends



John Reynolds



Dermot Henry



Gabriel Donohue



John Nolan



*Mary Coogan
&
Bruce Foley*

They were truly wonderful!

Vocation Promotion Team Updates

~Vocation Promotion Team Members: Sr. Mary Harper, Sr. Marianne Rohrer, Sr. Vivian Giulianelli & Sr. Ana Maria (Maruja) Gausa ~

Vocation Information & News

Information from NRVC

~ In a February 2015 letter from Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, NRVC Executive Director:

In collaboration with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference) has initiated a new fund, the **National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV).**

The 2013 NRVC/CARA Study on Educational Debt and Religious Vocations, clearly documented that student loans held by young people were a serious barrier, complicating, delaying and even thwarting many vocations to religious life. The newly established NFCRV is NRVC's response to ameliorate this problem and to increase the number of women and men entering religious institutes.

Although the NFCRV will currently only accept applications from women's religious institutes, with concentrated fundraising, we look forward to issuing similar grants to NRVC men's religious institutes as well.

This understanding is to be faithful to the stipulations of the original grant issued to NRVC by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.



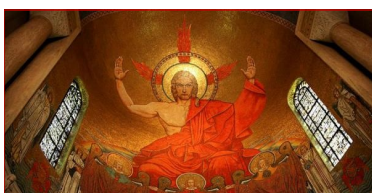
Upcoming Vocation Events & News

- ◆ **May 17, 2015:** “Meet-a-Sister Day” at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Port Chester, New York ~ invited by Sr. Maruja and her Pastor, Fr. Timothy Zak, SDB.
- ◆ **June 2015:** New Vocation brochures will be printed. Contact Sr. Denise if you need new vocation brochures for Vocation ministry or activities with youth/young people.
- ◆ **July 11, 2015:** Youth Day at Graymoor ~ sponsored by the Friars of the Atonement.
- ◆ **August 7—9, 2015:** Steubenville NYC Youth Conference at St. John's University, Queens, New York. Sr. Mary Harper & Sr. Maruja, Vocation Team Members, will attend.

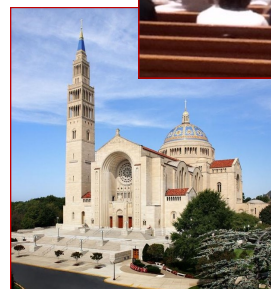
Sharings from the Vocation Promotion Team

~ submitted by Sr. Mary Harper ~ A Washington, D.C. Event ~

On Tuesday, **April 28, 2015**, Sr. Mary Harper and Fr. Dennis Polanco attended the Twenty-First Annual Vocation Mass for the eighth grade students in the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools of Washington, D.C. Students from 18 elementary schools were present. The Vocation Mass was held at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington was the Principal Celebrant. After the Mass, the students visited the various Vocation displays and also had the opportunity of interviewing Religious about their vocation.



Above:
Fr. Dennis Polanco, SA
& Sr. Mary Harper, SA
at the vocation booth for the
Society of the Atonement.



Regional Meeting I & II at Graymoor

~ Garrison, New York ~

Two Regional Meetings were held at Graymoor on April 20 to 23, and then on April 23 to 25, 2015. Sr. Mary Hughes, a Dominican Sister (Amityville), was our presenter. Sister's presentation reflected the theme: "*Year of Consecrated Life.*" Later during the meeting, our Sisters discussed numerous congregational topics. The following are photos combined from both the Regional I and II Meetings at Graymoor.



Sr. Mary Hughes began the first Regional Meeting in St. Francis Chapel at the Motherhouse.



Regional Meeting in Lurana Health Care Residence

~ at Graymoor ~



On May 4, 2015, Sr. Nancy and Sr. Mary Pat presented the material of the Regional Meeting to the Sisters residing in the Lurana Health Care Residence & Assisted Living. In closing, Sr. Nancy pinned the *flame pin* to each Sister — encouraging that Sister to 'go forth' with the fire of Christ in her heart.

News from the WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE, *Washington, D.C.*



OPEN HOUSE at Washington Retreat House

February 8, 2015

Left: Getting ready to meet guests.

Right: Greeting guests who came to the event (permission to use photo).



Associates meet with Poor Clare Sister, Sr. Inez.

Sister shared the story of St. Clare with us.

L to R: Consuello Powell, Marlene Vikor, Sr. Rene, Sr. Miriam Joseph, Mary Louise Mahoney, Ellen Hanyok, Sr. Josephine, Sr. Mary H, Kathleen McFarland, Cindy Perry, JoAnn McCarthy, Sharon O'Brien and Mary Ann Tretler





Digging My Well Deeper

~ Sabbatical Reflections from Sr. Mary Sarah ~

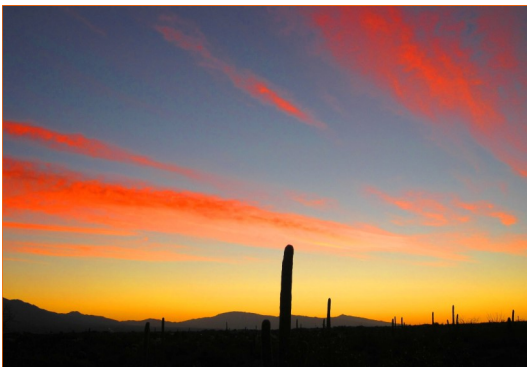
From July through December 2014, I was gifted with a sabbatical in Assisi, Italy and at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson AZ. I spent July and August with the very welcoming Assisi community who shared their gifts, talents, culture, stories, and language. Sr. Bianca shared her knowledge of Assisi with me so that I could wander through the streets to visit and revisit the many places I had read about. Sr. Maria Gabriella was very patient and helped when I needed assistance with phone calls. August is the month of music in Assisi and Sue, Alessandra and I went to several events.

We also celebrated the feast of the Nativity of Mary by attending Mass in a church located in the oldest part of the city. The priest did not give the final blessing until everyone processed through the streets around the church. We then went for dinner at the Roman Amphitheater. We also made several trips to Quadrelli. Alessandra made the trips a history lesson with the many stories of the area.



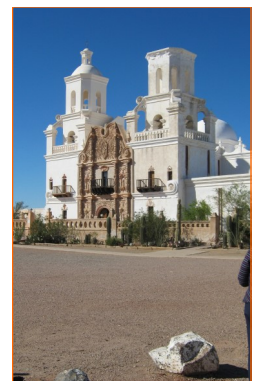
Right: Sr. Mary Sarah >>>

Above & Below:
Scenes of the Sonoma desert,
Tucson, Arizona



In October, I traveled to Tucson for a contemplative sabbatical in the Sonoma desert. The 160 acre property includes half a mountain, lots of desert with saguaro or bandit cactus, and an area with a number of petroglyphs or Native art etched into rock. The area is considered a Native American sacred space.

(Continued on next page....)





Digging My Well Deeper

~ Sabbatical Reflections from Sr. Mary Sarah ~



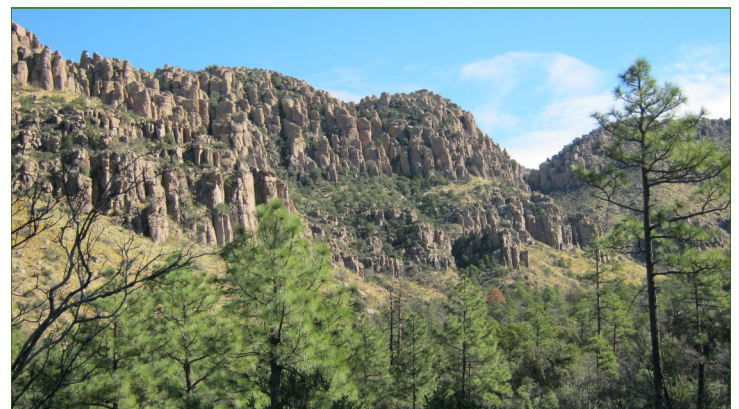
With 11 of us from all over the world, we were a diverse group from many different ministries and on sabbatical for various reasons. Our journey together lasted ten weeks with speakers on many topics including prayer, spiritual autobiography, forgiveness, Bible history and mysticism. The desert itself became the pathway for contemplation and renewal. Drawing on the masters such as Thomas Merton, we were introduced to the concepts of timelessness, survival, and lack of necessity of humans in the desert. One day we visited the border between the US and Mexico to see the infamous wall.

One of the Redemptorists who has worked on immigration issues for almost 50 years had many stories of the day-to-day issues of the immigrants. During our visit, we met a woman in sanctuary in a Presbyterian church. She had been in residence for 100 days with someone from the church with her 24 hours a day. For me, this was a very moving experience as it highlighted the struggles that I have witnessed in East Harlem with my work with the poor.



My journey of renewal lasted months and provided a greater depth of meaning for my mission and vision as a member of the Sisters of the Atonement and a better acceptance of myself within the community. I am very grateful for the opportunity and the renewed strength it has given me.

~ Sr. Mary Sarah



News from PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK



In a special celebration on
April 23, 2015
Sr. Maruja Causa
was the guest of honor and presented
with the following
Citations and Certificates

Congratulations, Maruja!



Left: Steven Otis, Assemblyman, of the 91st District, presented Sr. Maruja with a Citation from the New York State Assembly. It reads: "On behalf of the NY State Assembly, I, Steven Otis, gratefully acknowledge the exemplary service and dedication of Sr. Maruja Causa and recognize her as an outstanding citizen who is worthy of our esteem and the esteem of the great State of New York."



Left: A "Community Leader Award" plaque was presented to Sr. Maruja from the Council of Community Services, Port Chester, Town of Rye, Rye Brook for her dedication to the community.

Right: A Certificate of Achievement was presented to Sr. Maruja by Nita M. Lowey, Member of Congress, in recognition to Sister's outstanding contributions to the community.

In Memory of Sr. Barbara Ohl, S.A.

*Excerpts from the Homily of Fr. Tom Orians, S.A. at Sr. Barbara's Funeral
Funeral Mass of April 30, 2015*

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "Today, as in all ages, there is no lack of generous souls ready to give up everyone and everything to embrace Christ and His Gospel, consecrating their existence to His service with communities characterized by enthusiasm, generosity and joy."

Sr. Barbara was one of those generous souls—she had given to the Lord and to our community, a service "characterized by enthusiasm, generosity and joy." She was very much at peace as the reading from the Book of Wisdom (3: 1-9) suggests for she was indeed "chastised a little and greatly blessed for God has found her worthy of God's self." ... Today, she shares in that eternal life. Today, we commend this soul to the Lord, confident that He will receive her into eternal life. At the same time, we ask the Lord to comfort our community and all who mourn the loss of Sr. Barbara.



Mother Lurana wrote, "Right here lies the meaning and joy of the religious life. The Sister, by Holy Obedience, sacrifices as upon an altar to God her will, the most precious, the most costly thing she has. In return for His life laid down for her, she yields to Him the main-spring of her own life. And just in proportion to the faithfulness of her constant oblation renewed day by day, will be the intensity of her happiness and the capacity of her usefulness to God."

Sr. Barbara knew this during her life as a nun. We hear so often the phrase "we joy in God through whom we have received the Atonement." She understood what it meant to "Joy in God." Sister served the Church and our community in so many ways. You need only to look further in this morning Mass booklet and you will see her great dedication to the Church and to this community. Wherever she was assigned, she worked tirelessly to make each place a place of love and a place where God could make God's own dwelling. Of course, while we remember Sister for all that she did — and we are grateful for the many kindnesses she had shown us — we remember her for who she was. And who was she? She was "sister," a nun, a woman consecrated to the Lord by vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Religious life is not about the seeking of self, but rather the seeking of God. The only reason for this choice in life is to seek to know His will, to build a community in which God is sought after and loved before all else. Sr. Barbara knew this well Sr. Barbara moved along peacefully in the certainty of being sustained by the hands of a God who welcomes and provides ... Sr. Barbara had a heart full of love and her eyes were fixed upon what was unseen, as Saint Paul writes.

.... Our reading from Wisdom reminds us that those who trust in the Lord shall understand truth and shall abide with him in Love. Sr. Barbara, in all that she did, wanted simply to encourage us, to challenge us to build on the relationship of love we can all find in Jesus Rather, for her, Jesus was always a living person, a person with whom she could have an intimate friendship, a friendship which inspired her to follow him without compromise. The purpose of Sr. Barbara's life ... to know God, to love God, to serve God in this life so as to be happy with him in the next, at least that is our old Baltimore catechism. Sister did know God, and she loved God and she served Him very well. And though we are sad because she is no longer with us, we also can rejoice because she is now with God....

Eternal rest grant unto Barbara, O Lord; may her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord ...

Fr. Norman Boyd, SA, 02/10/15	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Mrs. Millie Larson, 02/24/15	Mother of staff, Beth Larson (Reception)
Frances Southwick, 02/08/15	Sister-in-law to Sr. Roberta Southwick
Madeline Nolan, 03/04/15	Associate of the Sisters of the Atonement
Eamon McGloin, 03/11/15	Brother to Sr. Marie McGloin
Fr. Joseph Scerbo, SA, 03/19/15	Franciscan Friar of the Atonement
Frances O'Rourke, 03/22/15	Sister-in-law to Sr. Margaret Mary O'Rourke
Peter Bernier, 03/24/15	Cousin of Sr. Diane Bernier
Ann Wheeler, 03/29/15	Associate of Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Marianne Kelly, 04/09/15	Sister of Sr. Frances Rooney
Fr. William Joyce, 04/09/15	Cousin of Sr. Mary Emerson
Joanna Riel, 04/11/15	Sister-in-law of Sr. Emmanuel Riel (RIP)
Robert Lockshire, 04/23/15	Brother of Sr. Catherine Regina Lockshire
Sr. Barbara Ohl, 04/26/15	Franciscan Sister of the Atonement

... and let perpetual light shine upon them!

~ Expressions of Gratitude ~

Dear Sisters,
A special "thank you" to each of you
for your prayers and Masses for my brother Eamon.
I am grateful for your thoughtfulness and remembrances.
With appreciation, Sr. Marie McGloin

Dear Sisters,
*Thank you for your prayers, Masses and kind words to me for the loss of my sister,
Marianne. Grateful for your prayerful support, Sr. Frances Rooney*

Dear Sisters,
My sincere 'thanks' to each of you for your support, prayers and Masses
at the time of the loss of my brother, Robert.
Gratefully,
Sr. Catherine Regina Lockshire

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE:

**The DEADLINE to submit INFORMATION for the next
Community Notes & News NEWSLETTER is July 15, 2015**

Please send photos, articles & information directly to Sr. Denise Robillard

~~ either through postal-mail -OR- in an Email to: secretarygeneral@graymoor.org

No need to design your page. Please send all photographs as an attachment in an Email, or
in postal mail. The content of your article can be typed directly into an Email,
or typed on a page in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment.

If you design your own page, please use Microsoft Publisher. *Thank you, Sr. Denise*