

# Community Notes & News

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT  
August, September, October 2017



Meeting at the Well

**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...



Somehow the months keep flying by as we transition from one season to another. Typically, the beauty of the East Coast fall season can never be replicated in terms of the splendid colors of diversity, but this year the transition seems dull and void of its usual vibrancy! This fact surely draws one to reflect on the concept of change!

This fall we have had a few changes in ministerial responsibilities within the Graymoor Departments. In the midst of this transition, I have taken on the interim responsibility for our *Fund Development Office*. So those of you who are on our community “mailing list” are now seeing my name on recent appeal letters and thank you letters. Actually I delight in the opportunity to share an ‘*appeal*’ where I can articulate our mission and share a ‘*thank you*’ where I can convey our depth of gratitude!

Moving into the month of November draws me to reflect on special remembrances that speak of gratitude. We open the month with a focus on *All Saints Day* giving us pause to remember those individuals who have blessed our lives in ‘saintly’ ways. The multitude of persons who bless us with the gifts of God, and yet may not be “named” as *saint* in the eyes of all, but most definitely named and claimed as *saint* in our own hearts! ... Perhaps a moment of reflection on that concept brings forth a smile of delight in fact as we bring to mind certain individuals!

I believe it certainly is not by accident that *All Souls Day* follows on the heels of claiming and naming our Saints; how apropos that we take time to reflect on those who have gone before us and now rest in the eternal presence of our God. Each November, I am struck by the fact that although time seems to fly by, when I sit with the reality of *All Saints Day* and *All Souls Day* it seems like the memories are fresh and new. I am quick to recollect many *Sisters of the Atonement* who have given all for the sake of the Mission! This year we have experienced the passing of eleven remarkable missionaries; we literally stand on the shoulders of those who have touched our lives in amazing ways and now abide in eternal peace with our heavenly Creator. Our congregation would not be where it is today if not for the commitment of all those who have gone before us! ... Perhaps a moment of reflection on that concept brings forth a tear of remembrance in fact!

How important it is that we literally take that moment of reflection ... breathe in the gift of those still with us in person in the present, as well as the gift of those still present with us in spirit ~ those who so readily come to our minds and hearts in this month of grateful remembrance.

Here in the USA, we are blessed with closing out the month of November with the *Thanksgiving* holiday, an opportunity to continue our graced time of gratitude with special memories. As we gather at our Thanksgiving Liturgy and our Thanksgiving table, we ask God’s abundant blessings on our congregation as we continue to *put out into the deep* in the midst of all transition and change.

May we always be cognizant of the one un-changing reality ... *God is Love* ... in Him we move and have our being ~ may we always trust in Him as *the Way* ~ *the Truth* ~ *the Life*!



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

## ~ Shades of Autumn at Graymoor ~

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

**I**n August and September, a number of Sisters were away on vacations and retreats. In September, we had the annual scheduled week of retreat for the Sisters in the Motherhouse or on the Graymoor grounds. They were guided by Fr. Kirk Reynolds, SJ, a Jesuit priest from Morristown, N.J.

**September into October** was unusually warm and humid. Finally, cooler weather came this past week or so. The warmer weather revealed the changing of autumn's colors along the hillside across Route 9! The warm days were appreciated by our Associates while they gathered here for their October retreat. The colorful autumn season was also welcomed by the men and women who come each weekend to Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House.

**On October 5th**, we said 'good-bye' to our Associates who came to Graymoor on October 2 & 3rd from California, Edmonton, Canada, New York and Washington, D.C. What good and beautiful spirits these women have! We are blessed by the Associates who have chosen to follow our Franciscan Atonement charism as they go about living their daily lives. Sr. Mary Electa had everything well organized for the 3 - 4 day sojourn among us during this splendid week of celebrating the feast of St. Francis. Sister deserves a big *'thank you!'*

**October is a month for remembering** ~ especially our Franciscan and Catholic heritage. On October 3rd, we were joined by some of our Friars and a number of our Associates as we celebrated together the Transitus of St. Francis. The next day, the Feast of St. Francis, 17 Sisters shared Eucharist with the Friars in their new chapel; and a festive dinner in their dining room followed. A good time was had by all! On **October 7th, Covenant Day**, we hosted our Friars here at the Motherhouse for Mass and a festive dinner. We were pleased to have 8 Friars join us, coming from the Inn and from the holy mountain-top. We look forward to our next festive occasion, **Corporate Reception Day on October 30th**, when we will go to the Friary. Br. DePorres Poncia, Guardian, has already sent the invitation to join them for the 4:00 p.m. Mass with dinner following. It's always a festive occasion to be together! Reflecting on Corporate Reception Day, we remember the words of Mother Lurana who, on that Saturday, October 30, 1909 wrote: *"Thank God, we are safe in St. Peter's Boat. The only fervor I felt was when I made my profession of faith, especially at the words, 'And I believe in all that the Holy Catholic and Roman Church believes.' Ah! It was good to say it out loud and from inside."*

**October** is also the month we opened a new mission in Port Chester, N.Y., not far from Byram, CT where we once had a mission. On Thursday, October 12th, shortly after our noon meal, some of us waved farewell to Sisters Nancy Conboy, Frances Arduini & Eileen Waldron who left for this new mission.



**May all blessings** be theirs at St. John Bosco Parish. We pray, indeed, that all blessings with harmony of body, mind & spirit be to each of our Sisters wherever they live and minister, pray, and serve to, with and for God's People.

I pray, Sr. Leila Spaulding, SA



# Lurana Health Care Residence



August activities in the Residence brought about lots of ‘summer fun’ - which also included some ‘indoor fun!’ Here are a number of Sisters enjoying a ball-toss game which brought many smiles and much laughter to the afternoon. Special guests included one of our aides, Norma, who came to visit the Sisters with her 4-year-old son, Sebas (top right). We are blessed with wonderful staff persons who truly care about our Sisters.

Right:

Sr. Jean Beyette watches on as Sisters Margaret Ann Ryan, Loretta Guevarra, Margaret Liam Glenane, Agnes Rooney and Barbara D’Aloia aim to toss the ball around the colorful netting.



**Still on the “go”** ... Sr. Loretta Guevarra, who celebrated her Diamond Jubilee (75 years as a Sister) on June 17th, is still “on the go” after being on the missions for the past 72 years!

Sr. Loretta can be found traveling around the Graymoor grounds ~ so much so, that we have a ‘road sign’ in her honor! Hold on to your veil, Sister, and keep up your speed!



# Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



by Sr. Margaret Sikora, Director of JPIC



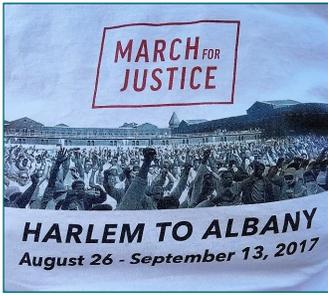
Money, money, money! Will you give \$3, \$5, . . . \$125 . . . \$1,000? These requests come daily by the drove. All this begging to support millionaires who want to continue as legislators who fail to act in the public interest. What has gone wrong with our system of government, *"of the people, by the people, for the people"*?

I believe one of the problems is that we have forgotten – or never learned – that we, as citizens, are responsible for failing to remember and act on the lessons learned in Civics class. (It is never too late to brush up on the responsibilities involved.) WE are responsible to inform ourselves about persons seeking election, about legislation that is proposed. WE overlook or fail to understand how voting districts can be gerrymandered by either party to keep one party or another in power. WE forget that a budget is a moral document, and fail to see how easily it can be rigged to give more to those who have, by robbing those who struggle to provide just basic needs for their families. WE talk to each other and complain about the failures of government, the lack of decent paying employment, the building of walls to keep people out of our country, the huge expenditures used to upgrade nuclear weapons, the threats of war.

Do we remember that in order to become law, a bill that originates in the House of Representatives, then goes to the Senate, where it is debated? Differences are then reconciled through debate. But the party now in power expects the Senate to comply with an up or down vote, by-passing the necessary debate, compromise on some parts of the bill and reconciliation. My friend, Jim Florio, former Senator and Governor of New Jersey, taught me that politics is the art of compromise. Legislators need to be informed by constituents of how proposed legislation will impact the lives of citizens. Do we sit on our hands and fail to protest this important step in wise decision making that promotes a bill both parties can agree on – where each side may have to give up part of what they deem the better thing to do?

How often do WE speak up to legislators, contact them on issues of importance for all citizens or the most forgotten? Do WE call their attention to the important issues by writing letters, email or telephone? What started me thinking about this topic was an email from our State Assemblywoman, Sandi Galef. Recently, she held a town hall meeting in Cortlandt Manor on health care with New York State legislators explaining what New York could, or could not do to 'fill the gap' should the Affordable Care Act be overturned. Now, she has scheduled another meeting on "The Great Debate: Single Payer Healthcare." Although I know many Sisters in the house receive these notices, generally I am the only Sister present. Do WE want to be informed, or do we go blissfully on our way blaming legislators for actions WE fail to take seriously??? No matter where we live, we have a responsibility to ACT for the good of all citizens.

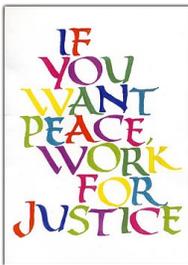
I have found that a visit, an email to a legislator with a personalized sentence or paragraph always elicits a response stating that congressperson's position and why. Dialogue is important. We cannot complain about elected officials actions, or lack thereof, if we do not exercise our obligations as citizens. Legislators are elected by the people. These elected officials work for us! Let them know what you think! Civics is the study of the rights and duties of citizens and how government works for us. In order for it to work for us we must put some effort into participation, in speaking up. It works! Will WE speak up for Gospel values? Even for the overturn of Citizens United and continual appeals for re-election funds? WE can do it! Will we?



# Alliance of Families for Justice



- WHO:** The Alliance of Families for Justice
- WHAT:** A 19-day march to bring to the attention of the New York State Legislature, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the general public.
- WHEN:** The March began August 26th in New York City and ended on September 13th in Albany, NY, with the marchers walking 10 miles a day.
- WHERE:** *On September 1st, the Sisters - through Sr. Margaret Sikora and with Sr. Mary Pat's blessing - invited the marchers to stop at Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House for a respite and a lovely lunch at noon. The Sisters there as well as Sisters from the Motherhouse served our guests. Their destination for the day was Cold Spring.*
- WHY:** To bring more attention to the human rights abuses in New York prisons and jails such as Rikers and Attica. A major rally and news conference was held by the Marchers in Albany on Sept. 13, 2017, the anniversary of the 1971 Attica uprising. The problems are within the whole system of New York's prisons and jails. Some of the needs that were addressed are solitary confinement, women-specific concerns, jail expansion, bail reform and treatment of people with mental health needs are just some of the issues addressed. See [www.afj-ny.org](http://www.afj-ny.org) for more information and ways to become involved. Check for conditions in your area prisons and jails.



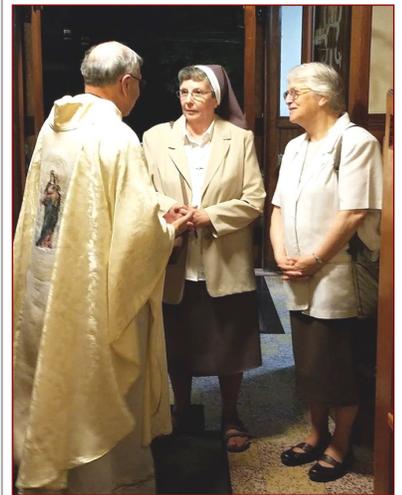
# Going Forth ... Putting Out Into the Deep!

On **August 1, 2017** ~ a new parish was established in Port Chester, New York: **St. John Bosco**. This "new" parish was created from a consolidation of four parishes that have now closed: *Our Lady of Mercy, Sacred Heart, Corpus Christi* and *Our Lady of the Rosary*. The pastor of St. John Bosco parish is **Rev. Patrick Angelucci**, from the congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco. **Sr. Maruja Causa** has been ministering in Port Chester, NY since September 2010. She will now be joined by more Sisters as Fr. Angelucci has invited the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement to live and minister in the parish. Along with Sr. Maruja, the Sisters who will be joining her there are: **Sr. Nancy Conboy, Sr. Frances Arduini** and **Sr. Denise Robillard**. It is our hope that more Sisters of the Atonement or Sisters from other congregations will come.



**Sisters who attended the celebration were:**

Sr. France Arduini,  
Sr. Diane Bernier,  
Sr. Nancy Conboy,  
Sr. Maruja Causa,  
Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio,  
Sr. René Drolet,  
Sr. Mary Pat Galvin,  
Sr. Mary Harper  
Sr. Denise Robillard,  
& Sr. Margaret Sikora



## ... more photos from the celebration of the opening of the new parish!



Below: Sr. Nancy shares her excitement about moving into the new parish while other Sisters and pastor, Fr. Pat, share her joy!

**Right:** Sisters Theresa Ann, Mary Pat, Mary Harper and Margaret Sikora share conversation after the celebration of the beautiful Mass.



# The Heart of Sharing!



~ A Reflection ~  
by Sr. Catherine T. Ryan

**Spirit of the living God,**  
Come, abide in me.

**Spirit of the living God,**  
My soul and comfort be.

**Spirit of the living God,**  
Help me stay free from sin.

**Spirit of the living God,**  
Grant Heaven at last I win.

**Spirit of the living God,**  
You are my love, my all.

**Spirit of the living God,**  
Never let me fall.

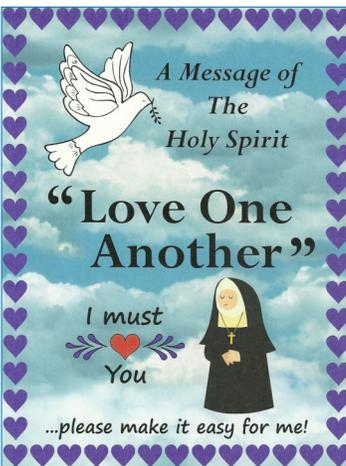
**From sin and false  
allurements,**  
My shield and Savior be.

**Never, never, never let me  
Stray from Thee.**

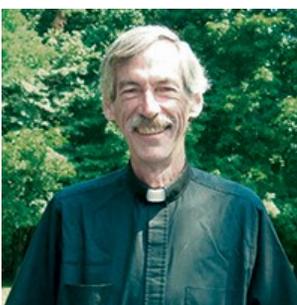
On Tuesday, **September 5, 2017**, the Sisters were presented with a tasty ICE CREAM SOCIAL as a gift from Jamie Brown, the daughter of our nurse coordinator, Luann.



Jamie has a missionary spirit and has been helping the Sisters in support of our mission in the Philippines. For years now, Jamie has been gathering school supplies and items for the children at our Cavite mission. She then packages them and sends the items ~ all from her own generous heart! Jamie, thank you for ALL you do for the children of this world and for others!



## Sisters' Retreat ~ September 18-22, 2017



FR. KIRK REYNOLDS presented the Sisters' Retreat from St. Ignatius of Loyola's perspective on the *Life of Christ*. He provided excellent handouts for the Sisters to use during their private meditation time. He was very kind and caring towards the Sisters and was available during the afternoons for consultation and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon, the food service staff provided a beautiful assortment of fruit and snacks for all of the Sisters to enjoy. No raiding the cookie cupboard this week! Fr. Kirk sat at different tables of Sisters at mealtime to visit and share stories.

Fr. Kirk Reynolds has spent most of his ordained life between parish work and retreat work. His parish work consisted of five years at Nativity parish, a predominantly Hispanic parish on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and eight years in a Jesuit parish in Oceanside, NY, where he served as pastor for seven of those eight years. Fr. Kirk spent two years at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, NY, involved in retreat work and giving spiritual direction. He has been at Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, NJ, since 2000 where he continues his retreat work and spiritual direction in both English and Spanish. Fr. Kirk has a Masters degree in Social Work and is fluent in Spanish.



# Indoor Yard Sale

Coordinated by Sr. Mary Louise to benefit our mission in the Philippines  
~ by Sr. Rosanne McDonald



- *Donations* for the Indoor Yard Sale (August 26 & 27, 2017) came from far and wide: family members who were moving, Sisters willing to part with some of their treasures, as well as from friends and neighbors who saw our signs asking for donations. Some were brand new and still in the original boxes! A big **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who donated items for this wonderful indoor yard sale. We truly appreciate your generosity to us!
- Many hours were spent pricing and organizing with help from friends of the Sisters. Wonderful to find people who really know the going rates at yard sales for pricing items! *The Sale became an "all Graymoor Campus Effort and Event."*
- One elderly lady came with a friend and in the course of chatting, she said she went to a Catholic college. The Sister helping them asked *"Where?"* The lady said, *"Wilkes-Barre, PA."* The Sister responded, *"The IHM Sisters?"* *"Why, yes"* was her answer. The look on her face was, *"How did you know?"* Sister responded, *"I know some of their Sisters; not at the college but elsewhere."* She and her friend continued to browse without finding a treasure to take home, but on her way out the door, the woman dropped a generous donation in the box for our cause.
- The air in the dining room Sunday evening was abuzz with excitement of the accomplishment of what we did together. Then came the moment when Sr. Mary Pat tapped on the water glass to get our attention for an announcement. We were all ears to hear the total gleaned from the efforts of the day. As of 5:20 p.m., the total was \$3,100.00+ with more to come in later. On Monday morning, the staff had the opportunity to buy ~ at rock bottom prices ~ any of the items left. The proceeds all went to benefit our mission in Cavite, Philippines!

## Washington Retreat House gets a new sign!



Happiness is ...  
... a nice, new sign at the  
Washington Retreat House!

Sr. Kristine & Sr. Josephine  
proudly present the  
beautiful new sign that is  
now on the front lawn.

# Graymoor News!



## **Indoor Yard Sale** to benefit our mission in the Philippines *Coordinated by Sr. Mary Louise Natale*



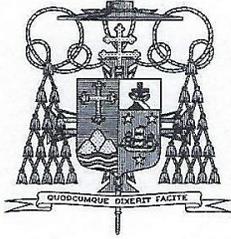
During the weekend of August 26 & 27, 2017, Sr. Mary Louise planned and coordinated an INDOOR YARD SALE to support our mission in Cavite, Philippines.

The weekend brought great enthusiasm & joy to the Sisters & Staff at Graymoor, as well as all the people who came to buy items from the yard sale and to support Sr. Mary Louise's efforts.

Numerous Sisters and Staff assisted in various ways. A special *thanks* to our Lurana Health Care Residence nurse, *Luann* & our receptionist, *Laurie*, for going that 'extra' mile to assist, especially in tagging all the items. And in a special way from our hearts, we THANK ALL those who donated items ~ new & used ~ for the sale! We are ever grateful! By the end of the day, the efforts of Sr. Mary Louise brought in a final amount of: \$3,100.00+



# News from the Archdiocese of Boston



CARDINAL'S OFFICE  
66 BROOKS DRIVE  
BRAintree, MASSACHUSETTS 02184-3839  
617-782-2544



September 27, 2017

Sister Mary Patricia Galvin, SA  
Minister General  
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement  
41 Old Highland Turnpike  
Garrison, NY 10524

Dear Sister Mary Patricia,

Peace and Blessings! Please allow me to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 29, 2017 regarding the Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Boston. I am sorry to learn that your Leadership Team has decided to withdraw Sister Esther Garcia, SA and Sister Laurie Jeanne MacDonald, SA from their ministry at the Yawkey Center effective June 30, 2018. Sister Esther and Sister Laurie are well-loved and respected in their service to the children and the families of the Child Care Center. Each day they provide a supportive and caring environment for the children who attend. However, I understand the necessity of your decision.

Since 1952, the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement have been a great blessing for so many in the Archdiocese of Boston. The Sisters have served as dedicated teachers, home visitors, youth ministers and social workers. They have been the light of Christ for so many. Sister Esther and Sister Laurie have been faithful witnesses to the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement: "We minister to the people of God to witness and share the truth about the Kingdom in Franciscan simplicity and joy...."

Please know of my prayerful support for Sister Esther, Sister Laurie and all the Sisters of your Community in the days ahead.

Asking God to bless you, I am,

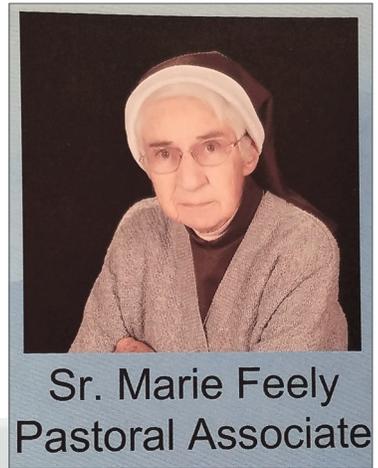
Devotedly yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Boston

**With many prayers & with much gratitude, a heartfelt *'Thank You'* is extended to all the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement who have ministered in the Archdiocese of Boston since it's founding 65 years ago. At this time, we thank especially both Sr. Esther Garcia & Sr. Laurie MacDonald for their years of ministry – from Emmanuel House to the Yawkey Center. Sr. Esther has been in Boston since 1979 and Sr. Laurie since 1998. As of June 30, 2018 – the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement will no longer be ministering in the Archdiocese of Boston. With gratitude for all those who ministered here, we GIVE THANKS! We ask God's continued blessings on our Congregation as we "put out into the deep" and move in new as wondrous directions as God calls us forth "for the sake of the mission."**



# News from Burlington, Vermont



Sr. Marie Feely  
Pastoral Associate

## Dedication



*The 2017 Parish Directory of Saint Mark's Church, in Burlington, Vermont, was dedicated to **Sr. Marie Feely** for her instrumental part in the ministry of evangelization to the parish community over her **25 years of ministry** there. Sr. Marie was first missioned to St. Mark's Parish in September 1992. **Congratulations, Sr. Marie!***

We are pleased to dedicate this Parish Directory to Sister Marie Feely. The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, have been an instrumental part of the evangelization ministry to the parish community of St. Mark's over the years. Sister Marie has served the parish for 25 years, and she embodies the motto of St. Mark's, which is "Love your God" and "Love your neighbor." Sister regularly visits our parishioners who are homebound, those suffering with temporary or more permanent illness in the hospital and nursing homes, attending and assisting at funeral masses, and her regular presence at our Sunday Mass and our parish social events.

Sister Marie is known by most everyone in the greater Burlington area. Her commitment to the Catholic Faith and St. Mark's Parish community has blessed our community for years. Sister's kindness and compassion has influenced many and brought hope and consolation to families in their times of need. She tirelessly lives her vocation, humbly serving all, and seems to be present everywhere.

This dedication is our way of thanking you Sister for your many years of faithful service to St. Mark's Parish. May God bless you with grace and strength as you continue your ministry.

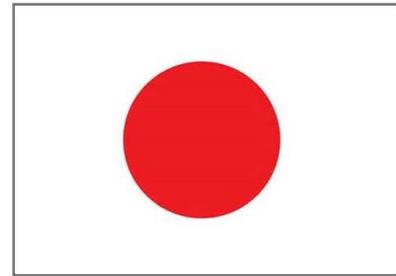
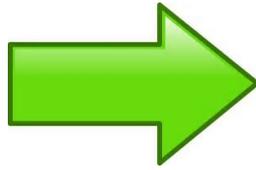


Saint Mark Church  
Burlington, Vermont

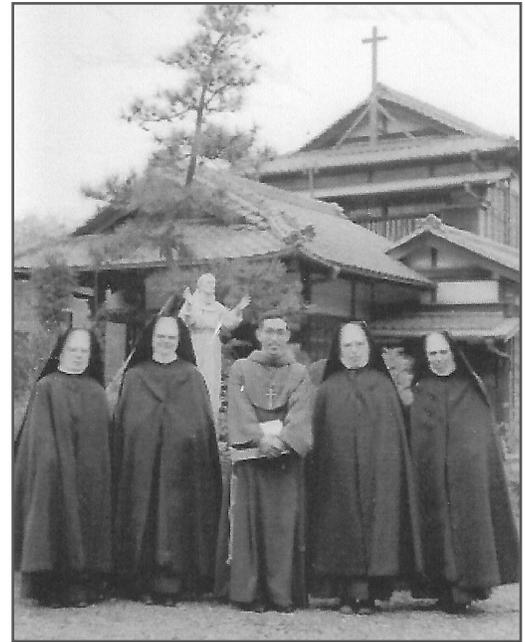
1942 - 2017



# Good News from our Sisters in Japan...



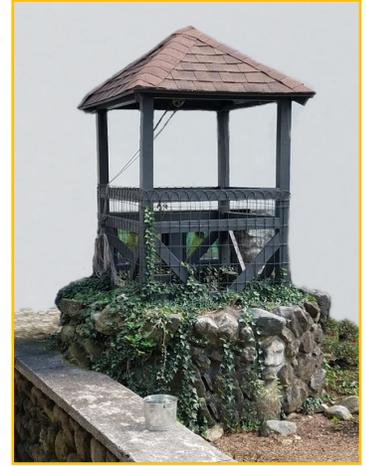
September 29, 1957—September 29, 2017



Sixty years ago the Sisters were invited by the Friars to join them in ministry in Kaizuka, Kawasaki, the Diocese of Yokohama. On November 29, 1948, the Friars received approval to go to Japan from the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Their departure ceremony for eight Friars occurred on January 9, 1949. At the invitation of the Friars, the Sisters were asked to come to Japan. On September 3, 1957, a departure ceremony for the five Sisters to go to Japan was a dream fulfilled for Mother Lurana. Sisters Clare Catherine Fujisawa, Mary Danielle Hussey, Mary Laetitia Toyoda, Mary Adrian Jamison and Clarissa Morillo left Graymoor on September 13, 1957. Then, aboard the President Cleveland out of San Francisco, they sailed across the Pacific Ocean for 16 days. They arrived in Yokohama on **September 29, 1957**. Bro. Casimir drove the Sisters to the new convent which the Friars had built especially for them. The convent included a Graymoor-style chapel and a large dormitory for future candidates. Now, our new mission in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan was opened!

**Congratulations on our Diamond Anniversary  
of Foundation in Japan!**

# Associate News ...



Shared from Gilda Puglisi, Associate Mentor:

The Retreat was incredible ... so life-giving and filled with joy for everyone ... Sisters & Associates! The Pilgrimage day set the tone. It brought to life the history and purpose of the Congregation .... to be on the holy mountain and to see the sacred sites of the humble beginnings, as printed in the "Woman of Unity" book, was extremely powerful for our group (Placerville, California Associates). It was especially wonderful for Renee, Sally & Maureen, who had not been to Graymoor before. Meeting the Leadership Team was an additional bonus making us feel truly welcomed as Associates and part of this beautiful Community.

Listening to the Sisters speak of the missionary work brought to mind visions of St. Paul spreading the Good News. They had such a courageous spirit going out to those in need whether it be brought on by war, poverty, injustice or lack of hope. Listening to them speak of their journeys with such love for the people they served reminded me that the work for the impoverished is never done and in my own small way I can take part in this.

Table talk with the Sisters was nothing more than miraculous! The Sisters in the Lurana Health Care Residence and main dining room came to life. They had so much wisdom and stories to share! All they needed was someone to listen and we, as Associates wanted to listen! That was a brilliant idea ~ for us to mingle and talk over meals. Nothing could improve except to do it again and again. My very favorite memory is on the Feast of St. Francis when the Sisters of the Residence came into the main dining room with their walkers or in wheelchairs. It was a true moment of at-one-ment and a vision I will not forget.



In trying to find the words to express my over-all experience for the events surrounding the Feast of St. Francis, I was humbled and honored to be present and part-take of it. I don't know that those few days could ever be duplicated. The *Blessing of the Sisters* was so beautifully read by Pat; and the Sisters, in turn, blessed us ~ a gift I cannot begin to describe. Cindy's reflection on, "*Not so much what you gather, as what you scatter,*" was so moving and powerfully written. It was a testament to the work accomplished by the Sisters of the Atonement. I'm brought to tears just thinking about that afternoon. For me, personally, that particular service brought great healing and comfort.

Photo/L-R: Laurel Mancebo, Sr. Thomas Marie & Gilda Puglisi

# ~ Photos from the October Associate Retreat ~



# Associate News ...

## **Reflections from the Associate Pilgrimage to Graymoor October 2-5, 2017**

~ by Pat Shields Maher, Associate Mentor

Twenty-two Associates from California (Placerville, Atwater and Seaside), Canada (Edmonton, Alberta), New York (Long Beach & Croton-on-Hudson), Washington DC & Maryland, gathered at Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House to begin an unforgettable journey into the heart of Graymoor and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement.

The profound faith and trust of Mother Lurana and Father Paul spoke to each one of us as we experienced for the first time or deepened our previous experience in each of the sacred places on this mountain. It began with the journey of "Meeting at the Well" literally as well as the theme of our Retreat. A profound sense of Unity surrounded us as we mingled the waters of our homes with the water from the well and then blessed each other with, *"May you be blessed with life giving waters from this holy mountain and all of creation in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. May the faith of Mother Lurana as she prayed for this holy well be with you and sustain you."* Later in the week on the Feast Day of St. Francis we Associates were humbled and honored to share that blessing with each Sister at *the Sowers and the Seeds* prayer ceremony.



One Associate reflected: "There is a holiness that you encounter as you walk the paths and in the buildings where Mother Lurana walked, lived and prayed." Another deep joy experienced by the Associates was the special sharing of time together with the Sisters at the dinner table nourishing our bodies with wonderful food, but so much more importantly being gifted with the spiritual nourishment from the Sisters as they shared their lives of ministering to God's people around the world with grace, courage, humor and a great deal of Faith.



It was during these visits in the two dining rooms and in listening to the missionary reflections of Sisters Agnes, Loretta, Margaret, Joanne, and Nancy that we were truly humbled to be in the presence of holy women and honored to be invited to stand on their shoulders to continue the Atonement ministry and charism of service and unity in our own lives.

Each Associate knows that Graymoor with the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement is a Healing Sacred place that will continue to call us back to visit, to serve, to reflect and to grow deeper in Franciscan Spirit. This was our retreat and yet it was so much more....



## **Placerville California Associates Day of Reflection –September 9,2017 "Gathering Up the Fragments"**



On **September 9th**, the Associates of Placerville and Atwater, California gathered at the home of Gilda Puglisi to celebrate the birthday of our long-time mentor Sr. Thomas Marie Heavey and to share the gift of reflection on "Gathering up the Fragments" that nothing be lost of the gift of our lives. It was a beautiful event culminated in attending Mass at St. Patrick's parish.



### **Placerville California Associates volunteer at Nomadic Shelter Benefit Dinner- October 28, 2017**

**Welcome to "Sheltering Hope"  
the 2nd Annual  
Nomadic Shelter Benefit Dinner  
Oct 28, 5-9PM St. Patrick's Church**



Enjoy this special evening of fellowship  
nourishing both body & soul  
With a delicious penne pasta dinner;  
Poignant reflections on the journey of homelessness;  
Inspiring information about Nomadic Shelter Ministry;  
The gift of StephenBComedie to delight us;  
Ending the evening with an exciting Raffle drawing  
of many wonderful prizes.

#### **Love One Another—As I have Loved You**

"For when I was hungry,  
you gave me food...  
When I was naked,  
you clothed me..  
When I was thirsty,  
you gave me drink...  
When I was homeless,  
you gave me shelter...  
When I was lonely,  
you gave me love & dignity"



Lord, when did we see you  
hungry, naked, thirsty,  
homeless  
or lonely?

**"Amen, I say to you,  
whatever you did for one of these least  
brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me."**

(adapted) Matthew 25: 35-40

The Associates of Placerville are entering into ministry with the Nomadic Shelter program churches and have found "Christ in the Margins" in our homeless brothers and sisters. We served a Thanksgiving meal to 48 homeless in 2016 at an evangelical church and have been asked if we could offer the gift again. Six to eight of our Associates and their loved ones have volunteered to share in this effort.



Our most current ministry was to assist serving at the Nomadic Shelter Benefit Dinner October 28, 2017. The event brought in \$8500 to assist in transporting, providing shelter, bedding & food through the winter of our own "Brothers and Sisters Christopher".

# Covenant Day

**Our Founders “went out into the deep” ~ and the Society of the Atonement was founded!**



**“Blessing I will bless you  
~ and multiplying  
I will multiply you!”**



**OCTOBER 7, 2017  
COVENANT DAY OF THE  
SOCIETY OF THE  
ATONEMENT**

A **Covenant** has two sides in the agreement and the children of Abraham were a great disappointment to God. May we not, as children of Abraham of the New Law of St. Francis, be a disappointment to God. Let us consider the great responsibility that rests on us. We have a great character to establish. . . Remember we are to contribute our part to the rise of the Institute and its success or contribute to its detriment and its principles. Look to following St. Francis as he followed in the footsteps of Christ. . . . We ought all to keep in view and in mind that God wishes us to propagate the seed of the Atonement to cooperate with him in fulfilling his covenant promise: “Blessing I will bless you and multiplying I will multiply you,” [Heb.6:14] and by all means let us try to bring ourselves more and more to the influence of St. Francis.

(Fr. Paul’s Sermon ~ Oct. 7, 1939)



***Joining in Prayer & Celebration  
with each of you,***



**Sister Mary Pat & Council: Sr. Rene, Sr. Denise, Sr. Lucinda May & Sr. Theresa Ann**

*~ Leadership Team of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement ~*



**October 7, 2017 ~ Covenant Day**  
Feast Day celebrations for the  
Sisters & the Friars abound during  
the month of October!

**Covenant Day ~ at St. Anthony’s Guest House, Assisi, Italy**



**Atonement Sisters,  
Friars, Friar Novices  
& Friends gather for  
Mass, prayer and  
sharing together  
for our feast day.  
Our new Sister,  
Sr. Connie (in white  
blouse) will be going  
to our mission in the  
Philippines by the  
end of November.**



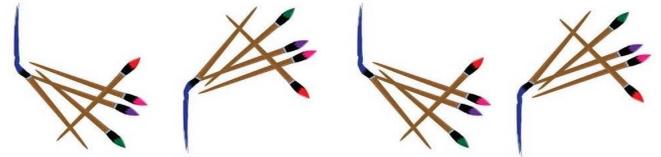


**Watercolor Art Show**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:**  
**MONDAY, November 6th**  
**from 2:00—4:00 P.M.**  
**Come! Meet the Artists!**  
*Featuring Artwork by Sr. Marjorie & her Students*

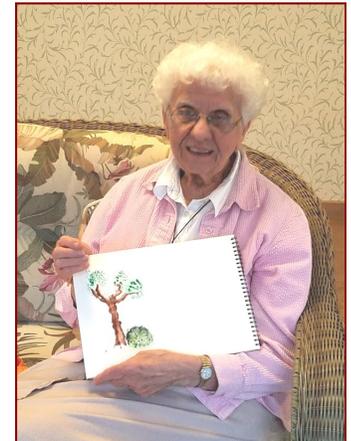
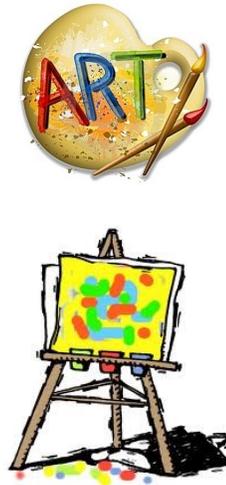


November 6—18, 2017  
**EXHIBIT IS OPEN DAILY**  
**2:00—4:00 PM**  
 Come! Meet Sister Marjorie while she is painting!  
**ST. FRANCIS CONVENT**  
 Graymoor  
 41 Old Highland Turnpike  
 Garrison, NY 10524  
 Tel. # 845-424-3825

Consider joining the  
**Watercolor Art Classes**  
 ~Registration Forms Available~



**Opening Reception, November 6, 2017 ~** (Above Left): Sr. Mary Trinitas & Janice display their watercolor artwork, along with Lisa (above center). Sr. Marjorie pauses (top right) for a moment to admire the colors of her artistic watercolor painting. Sister Marjorie offers two free watercolor classes per week with a total of 16 students coming for either daytime or evening classes.

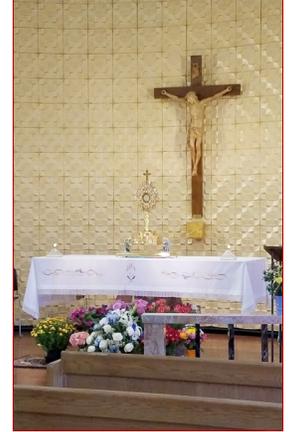


(Top Left) ~ Students happily show their masterpieces. From left to right they are: Kathy, Julie, Nancy, Janice, Lisa and Sr. Marjorie.

(Above Right) ~ Sr. Mary Trinitas is pleased to join the watercolor classes. Here, she shows a watercolor that she has just begun.

(Left) ~ Students, Yvonne & Mary proudly show us their artistic talents in painting scenery with watercolors.

# ... the Opening of a New Convent ...



We would like to share with you that our Sisters moved into the new Port Chester convent on Thursday, **October 12, 2017**. At this time, **Sisters Nancy Conboy, Local House Coordinator, Sr. Frances Arduini & Sr. Maruja Causa** are residing there. **Sr. Denise Robillard** will be joining the community at Port Chester by December 1, 2017. As much as possible, Sr. Denise will continue her duties as the Secretary General from Port Chester.

Sr. Nancy and Sr. Frances have already entered into the local parish life by teaching classes in the Religious Education program. On Saturday mornings, Sr. Nancy teaches grade 2; while during the week, Sr. Frances teaches grades 2 & 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sr. Maruja continues in the adult education programs and is involved in many day-to-day activities in this very active parish under the direction of **Fr. Patrick Angelucci, our Salesian pastor**.



Above: Aerial View of Convent.



Above: Sisters' Dining Room

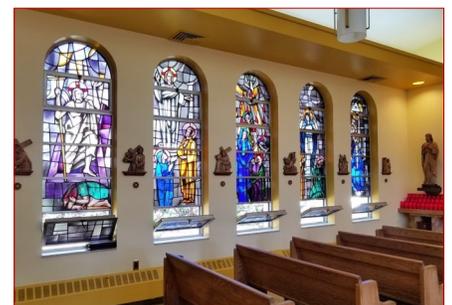


Above & Below: Adoration Chapel ~  
Open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Left:  
Getting ready to move into the new convent!

Right:  
Sr. Maruja in one of the classrooms in the convent building.



# News from the Philippines!

~ by Sr. Helen Hadcock

**St. Francis Feast Day** in Paliparan was a thanksgiving celebration of God's generosity and faithfulness to the children, staff, and Sisters. Once again, we were able to *see the miracles* of God's presence during the Eucharistic celebration, creation, children, and one another. *The first little miracle* was the dedication of the image of Sr. Susan Boyle (installed at the eleventh hour) so that the memorial window could be blessed on our First Anniversary. *The second little miracle* was the cloud formation in the shape of a Tau cross, and *the third and most important miracle* was the ability to bring this Gospel text to life: "... when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14: 13-14)

On the Feast Day of St. Francis, October 4, 2017, children from the local area were chosen to come to our Mother Lurana Ministries & Community Center for a feast. They totaled 107 children, particularly invited because the Staff knew that these children would never be able to repay the generosity of the benefactors. As the Gospel asks us not to turn away the hungry who come to our door, we also welcomed a child who was not known by anyone. She was later seen enjoying herself and talking to everyone.

From the photos, you can recognize that there were children present as young as one year. They enjoyed rice, pancit, roasted pork, beef, chicken, and ice cream. From their reactions, I experienced wonder and joy ~ first, that they were the ones chosen to attend this banquet; secondly, the appreciation for the food and drink; and thirdly, the happiness of being with friends and family.

Later that day, the staff: Analee, Baby, Ariel, Teddy, Manong, Deliah, Michael, Renan, Rodel, James, Jade, Manilyn, Budoy, Mary Grace, Jasmine, Carmen, Angie, Vicky, Thirty, Sr. Irma and Sr. Sonia; the Educational Assistance recipients: Mack-Mack, James, Jim-Boy, Andre, Ivan, Sherwin, Romar, Gabriel, and John-John and the FSA Sisters, enjoyed a dancing competition and an award ceremony. Jim-Boy was named "*Student of the Year*"; Manilyn named "*Ate (sister) of the Year*"; Renan named "*Kuya (brother) of the Year*"; Michael was selected the "*MVP*" and "*Employee of the Year*". The program also included a prayer of thanksgiving for all those who, unknown to us, make contributions, prayers and sacrifices which permit this mission to exist. God is VERY GOOD to us so that His children may eat and be cared for through our ministries.

The day ended with a very competitive game of *Bingo*. Yes, *Bingo* is enjoyed ~ especially when no money is needed to play, but the players still receive prizes!

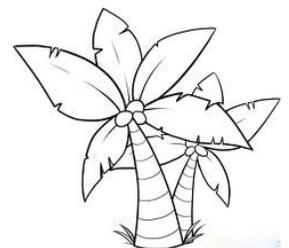
**Everyone is looking forward to the second  
Anniversary Celebration in 2018!**

# News from the Philippines!



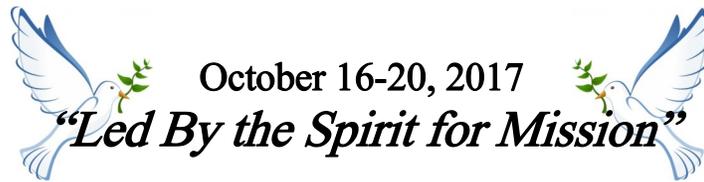
## ***Feast Day of St. Francis Photos, October 4, 2017***

*~as related to the article from Sr. Helen Hadcock on the previous page~*



# News from the Philippines!




 October 16-20, 2017  
*“Led By the Spirit for Mission”*

Sr. Babylyn Dulfo, who resides on our mission in the Philippines, has been appointed by Sr. Mary Pat, *Minister General*, to do vocation ministry for our congregation. In October, Sr. Babylyn attended a vocation campaign open for students from grade 12 through college ages—students of different courses and levels. Vocation Directors/Directresses and the Campus Ministers of St. Mary’s University in Nueve Viscaya, part of the Luzon region, were also in attendance. Sr. Babylyn sends us these photos with her greetings and best wishes from our Sisters and Novices in the Philippines.



The purpose of this event was to promote “vocations in religious life.”

The Vocation Directors & Directresses, as well as the Catholic university of St. Mary’s, is trying to help young people discern well what they want to do with their lives, and bring their awareness to the religious life and ministry of service in the Church.

We thank Sr. Babylyn for all her efforts in being a positive influence to the young people where she ministers.

# We Remember Your Great Love



## **Sr. Edmund (Jane Mary) McGourty, SA** *November 19, 1918 ~ July 26, 2017*

Sr. Edmund McGourty was born to Michael and Margaret (Lynch) McGourty in Cornamuckla South, Ballanaglera, Co, Leitrim, Ireland. She was predeceased by her parents and siblings: John, Patrick, Charles, Michael and Mary (McGourty) Rynn. Jane Mary entered the Postulancy in Ireland on March 25, 1938, and she arrived at Graymoor on August 22, 1938. She entered the Novitiate and received her habit, veil and religious name of Sr. Edmund on October 28, 1939. Her quote from the *Greatest Joy* booklet: "My greatest 'joy' was receiving the habit and veil

from Father Founder in 1939! I was in the last group to receive the habit from Father Founder before he passed in 1940." Sister's First Vows were professed on October 30, 1940 and her Final Vows were professed on August 24, 1946.

Sister's Legacy is: "I am living a life of witness to our Atonement Charism as a vowed member. I took my vows to go where I was sent, living in community (which was mostly enjoyable) and service in Day Care in the inner city, fund-raising and mendicant work, religious education, parish social services, guiding people into the Church, and now for 26 years, visiting the homebound and being a Eucharistic minister and advocate for them. This is a prayerful environment and keeps me close to God. I am grateful to be able to continue this ministry despite my visual limitations. This creates good relationships with generous parish volunteers who share in this ministry by providing transportation. I stand on the shoulders of Sr. Edith who was a functioning example for me. I believe there is a future for the community because it stands on the shoulders of Mother Lurana."

## **Sr. Maria Albina (Pia) Paris** *October 11, 1926 ~ September 24, 2017*

Sr. Maria Albina was born to Adele (Radise) and James Paris in Portaria, Terni, Italy. Pia entered the Postulancy of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement on May 8, 1957. She entered the Novitiate on February 2, 1958 and received the habit, her white veil, and the religious name, Sr. Maria Albina. Her First Profession of Vows was on April 16, 1959 and Final Profession of Vows was on February 11, 1965.



Sr. Maria Albina served her whole Atonement missionary life in Italy. First in Quadrelli from 1959 to 1966, then in Rome from 1966-1980; back to Quadrelli in 1980-1983. She then returned to Rome in 1983-1999. In 1999 she returned to Quadrelli until 2014, when she then moved to Assisi and lived in community there from 2014-2017.

What was Sr. Maria Albina greatest joy as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement? She wrote: "Three beautiful visits to America and my trip to Lourdes with the sick on the "white train." But my Final Profession is fixed in my mind!" Sr. Maria Albina wrote the following as her Legacy: "I have served all my life in Franciscan simplicity, poverty and obedience in Quadrelli and Rome, Italy. I hope that the many pilgrims I have fed (as kitchen cook) have received also spiritual nourishment through my life of prayer and service together with my Sisters in community."

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

**Sr. Edmund McGourty, 06/26/2017**.....**Franciscan Sister of the Atonement**  
Iede dal Sunto, 09/08/2017 .....Franciscan Sister of the Atonement Associate in Brazil  
Rosemary Kinisky, 09/09/2017 ..... Sister to the late Sr. Rose Marita Lake  
Jim Griffin, 09/21/2017 .....Brother-in-law to Sr. Thomas Marie Heavey  
**Sr. Maria Albina Paris, 09/24/2017** .....**Franciscan Sister of the Atonement**  
Jean Migre, 10/09/2017 .....Sister to the late Sr. Mary Helena Sproul  
Frank Fenzel, 11/10/2017 ..... Brother to Sr. Dolores Fenzel

... and let perpetual light shine upon them!



## **Up-Coming Event for Sisters & Staff**

On Monday, November 20, 2017,  
Sr. Ann Joseph & Sr. Denis Marie will be having  
their wonderful **Christmas Crafts & So Much More**  
**craft sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on the  
first floor of the Motherhouse.  
All Sisters from near and far are welcome to attend,  
as well as our staff on the Graymoor grounds.  
Sr. Ann Joseph & Sr. Denis Marie have worked on these  
crafts all-year-long for this special event!

## **SISTERS & ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE:**

**The DEADLINE to submit information for the next  
Community Notes & News Newsletter is January 20, 2018.**

**~~ It will be the WINTER Issue and will cover the months of:  
November, December (2017) & January 2018 ~~**

**Please send Newsletter articles & information directly to Sr. Denise**  
**either through postal mail, Email \*OR\* arranged in Microsoft Publisher ONLY.**  
Otherwise, it makes it difficult for us to work with your information.

**Email to: [secretarygeneral@graymoor.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@graymoor.org)**

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

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

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