

# Lurana's Star

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ATONEMENT  
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2015

WINTER

No. 1

*Jesus said to her,  
"Give me a drink."  
(John 4:7)*



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*January 18-25, 2015*

*"The reunion of Christendom is our unique aim. We like to separate our name and think of its syllables, At-one-ment, meaning to make at-one. This is therefore very evidently our special vocation, the one for which God called our Society into being."*

*Mother Lurana White*

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2015

Franciscans...  
Missionaries...  
Lovers of Creation...  
Lovers of the Lord!



Sister Eilish Sweeney

Dear Friend,

Sincere best wishes to you and your family for a Blessed and Happy New Year. May the year 2015 be a time of many graces and blessings for each of you. The Christmas Season here at Graymoor

was beautiful. Our Christmas Liturgies and the daily celebration of the Divine Office were very festive indeed. Know that you and all your loved ones were remembered in our prayers.

This edition of Lurana's Star calls to our minds the mission and ministry of Father Paul and Mother Lurana who worked so diligently in years gone by to bring about Unity among all churches. This year's theme for our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: *Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."* These words of Jesus are taken from John 4:7 and are being presented to us for our reflection by the members of the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil.

For the past one hundred and fifteen years people from around the world have been gathering together to pray for Unity among churches. This year will be no different. Here at Graymoor we will be gathering with our Friars, Associates and neighbors as well as with the parishioners in our local churches during the week of January 18th through January 25th as we strive to bring about the prayer of Jesus: "That all may be

one." Please be united with us in prayer.

This past October two of our great missionaries: Sister Lucille Hassey and Sister Margaret Mullin were called home to God. Sister Lucille from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada was a member of our congregation since 1946. Although Sister spent most of her sixty-eight years serving in her own country she also served the people in Canajoharie, New York, Rome and Assisi, Italy as well as here in the Graymoor area.

Sister Margaret Mullin comes from Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, Ireland and had been a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement for over sixty-six years. Like most of us, Sister Margaret served the people of God in various States here in the U.S. as well as in Canada. May Sisters Lucille and Margaret Rest in Peace.

On Thursday, October 30, 2014, as we celebrated the 105th Anniversary of our Corporate Reception into the Roman Catholic Church we also gave thanks to God for blessing us with two new members into our congregation. We extend a warm welcome to Cynthia Carlos and Catherine Dusaban to our Postulancy Program in the Philippines.

On Saturday, November 8th Sister Colette Duffy surrounded by family, friends, Sisters and Friars celebrated her 100th Birthday. What a wonderful day it was for all who attended the special Liturgy in her honor and the festive dinner that followed. May Sister Colette enjoy many more years of blessings in her life.

Happy New Year and God bless you all.

Gratefully,

*Sister M. Eilish Sweeney*

# Our Brazilian Foundation

Back in 1958 Pope Pius XII created the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. This Commission was charged with funneling world-wide cooperation into Latin America within a ten year period.

Prior to his death in 1963 Saint Pope John XXIII, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, made an appeal to religious congregations throughout the world to send 10% of their members to Latin America.



*Our First Missionaries  
to Brazil. Sister Carmine, Sr. Marie Bernadette  
Sister Marie de Montfort &  
Sister Loretta Guevarra*

Shortly thereafter four of our Sisters responded to the call to work among the people of Brazil. As was required, our Sisters joined many other missionaries from around the world as they immediately registered at the International Language School in Rio de Janeiro. This required program lasted for four months and it gave all the missionaries a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with the people of Brazil and their way of life prior to their involvement in mission activities.

The Diocese of Jatai, in the State of Goias, situated within the Southwestern part of Brazil was chosen for the first foundation of our Sisters in Brazil. Bishop Dom Benedito Coscia, O. F. M., a native of Brooklyn, New York was more than pleased to welcome our Sisters to his new diocese in August of 1963. Bishop Coscia was well aware of the fact that religious



*Our Sisters and Friars gathered with other  
dedicated missionaries from various parts of the world for  
dialogue and support.*

education, home visiting and social welfare work were the special apostolates of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. For many years to follow our Sisters were there to assist the bishop and his priests in providing solid spiritual instruction to their people.

Fifty years ago life was simple and people were poor; therefore, these early missionaries responded to the needs of the people by setting up feeding programs and Religious Education classes for both children and adults. Sister Loretta Guevarra who spent thirty-one years as a missionary in Brazil shares: “We actually made soup every day for the poor, managed religion classes, trained catechists and visited homes throughout the Diocese.” Sister also relates “Catholic Charities from the USA sent all the food which included butter, powdered milk and eggs.”

In the years that followed other Sisters from our congregation joined our first missionaries in Brazil. Among them was Sister Andre Denno, an LPN - licensed practical nurse, who, with the financial support of our Friars, also serving the needs of the people of Brazil, opened a badly needed clinic to meet the needs of the poor. It is written in our Brazilian history that: “Sister Andre attended many sick at the clinic and did home and hospital visits as well. She treated cases of sinusitis and bronchitis in particular. Local dentists and eye specialists also offered their services to assist Sister Andre in her ministry. Her clientele came from beyond Jatai

which included not just the local area but even outside the State: Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Tocantins, and many other towns.”

A great many of these people needed both spiritual and material help, which the Sisters secured for them.”



*Sister Andre keeps a watchful eye on one of her dedicated volunteer dentists in her local clinic.*



*Sister Andre's humble clinic in Jatai, where so much good was accomplished for the sake of those in need.*

As more and more of our Sisters volunteered to minister among the people of Brazil as well as young Brazilian women showing an interest in our apostolate, our congregation opened several other missions throughout Brazil. Rio Verde, Goiania, (our Novitate), Rio de Janeiro, Serranopolis, Cristianopolis and Sao Paulo were among them.

For many years our Sisters ministered in the various parishes throughout the diocese and worked closely with Bishop Coscia and in most cases with our Friars. Together they organized the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, visited the local people in their homes and provided social welfare programs.

Distance between villages and settlements outside of Jatai was great and the roads poor and often impassable. The local radio station back in the early days was owned by Bishop Coscia and often used by Sister Loretta Guevarra as a means of communication to teach religious education to both children and adults.

Also, in those early days of our Sisters' missionary endeavors in Brazil, Sister Carmel Finelli undertook the arduous task of translating modern American religion texts and teaching materials into Portuguese. Sister also adapted educational materials for the use of the lay catechists whom Sister Loretta was already preparing to work side by side with the Sisters in the catechism classes.



*Our Sisters and Friars gathered on many occasions to celebrate community feasts and special events.*



*Sister Susan Boyle, Minister General and our missionary Sisters on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebration of our first foundation in Brazil.*

It is also written in our Brazilian History that “Many people were greatly encouraged by the fact that someone from the Church was interested enough to visit them in their homes.

On December 16, 1988 our Sisters in Brazil gathered with Sister Susan Boyle, Superior General for the Silver Jubilee celebration of our Brazilian Foundation. Dom Benedito Coscia, Bishop of Jatai, celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving which was attended by priests, religious, parishioners and friends from around the diocese. Will we ever know the good that so many dedicated missionaries from around the world have done for others? God bless them all.

Today, over fifty years later, we are pleased to share with you that the presence of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement is still a very viable reality among the people of Brazil. Although fewer in number the two Sisters remaining there have accomplished tremendous achievements on behalf of those whom they have been called to serve.



*Sister Maria Clara de Assisi*

Sister Maria Clara de Assisi, a native Brazilian and a member of our congregation for close to forty years has been a great asset to our American Sisters as they worked side by side for the good of so many people down through the years. Due to declining health, Sister Maria Clara is presently taking life a little

easier and is focusing on a ministry of prayer on behalf of her people. May God continue to bless her and her family for all the love and self giving they have shown towards those in need.

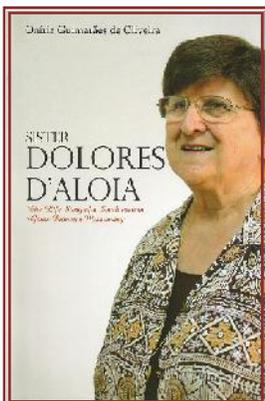


*Sister Maria Clara de Assisi, with some of her local parishioners.*

Our second Sister, Sister Dolores D'Aloia, comes from Mechanicville, New York and has lived and ministered among the Brazilian people for almost fifty years. Oh, how she loves them.

Recently, a book, *Sister Dolores D'Aloia - The Life Story of a Southwestern Goias*

*Pioneer Missionary* has been written in her honor in gratitude for the fifty years of ministry and dedication to all whom she has been called



to serve. This book is indeed a beautiful tribute to her. It is available at our Sisters' Gift Shop here at Graymoor.

Back in the early 1990's I had the opportunity with Sister Mary Harper to visit our Sisters and the people whom they ministered among. It was indeed a wonderful experience to be able to spend time among the people of Brazil. They were solid family people. We were so welcomed.

While Sister Mary and I were there some of our American Sisters due to age and illness made the difficult decision to bring their Brazilian missionary endeavors to an end. At this point in their lives our Sisters were at ease knowing that they had prepared many of the local people to continue the work the Sisters had begun. In working out other important details, our convent in Jatai was returned to the Diocese and our Novitate in Goiania was sold.

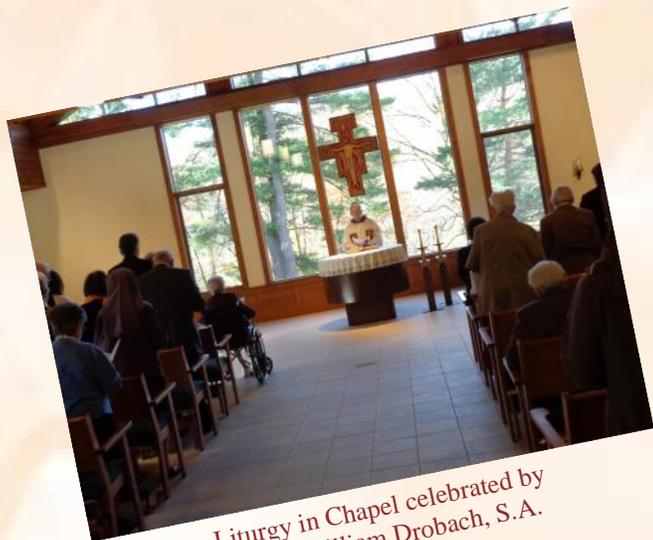
*Sister Dolores and our Brazilian Associates.*



*Sister Dolores and her dedicated catechists, many of whom are also Associates.*

Our congregation made the decision that rather than take the money from the sale of our Novitate building back to America it was to be left in Brazil, invested and to be used for the education of future catechists all in honor of our Foundress, Mother Lurana. Today, Sister Dolores works closely with the catechists within her area who assist in various parishes. In 2000 Sister established our Associate Program among the people of Brazil. Today we have at least thirty Associates who meet monthly with Sister Dolores, for spiritual support and community update. Many of these Associates also are active catechists in the local parish.

We wish Sisters Dolores, Maria Clara, our Associates and all the dedicated catechists God's special blessings in all the good works they do for others.



Liturgy in Chapel celebrated by  
Father William Drobach, S.A.



Sister Colette & Family



Sister Colette

*Sister  
Colette Duffy  
Celebrates her  
100th  
Birthday!*



Sister Colette & Sister Nancy  
Minister General

*Saturday, November 8, 2014 - In Great Style*



Sister Colette & Family



Sister Colette & Sisters

*What a lovely day we had. Although it was a little warm -  
we had no rain -  
all a gift from God.*

## *Benefactors' Day*



*Saturday, September 6, 2014  
Franciscan Sisters  
of the Atonement  
Graymoor, Garrison,  
New York*



*It was wonderful having close to fifty of our friends and benefactors as well as Sisters, Priests, musicians, helpers, and cooks all gathered together to express gratitude for so many blessings in our lives.*

*Thanks to all of you who helped sponsor this very special event.*

*Gratefully,  
Sister Eilish, Development Staff and all our Sisters.*

# *In Memoriam*



*Sister Lucille Hassey*  
February 27, 1923 ~ October 12, 2014



*Sister Margaret Mullin, SA*  
April 14, 1933 ~ October 14, 2014

*Eternal rest grant to them O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.*

## **Sisters' Gift Shop Graymoor**

Shop 5 days a week 9am-4pm  
(closed on Monday & Tuesday)  
Call 845-424-3809  
[giftshop@graymoor.org](mailto:giftshop@graymoor.org)



## *Mass Schedule*

*You have an open invitation to join us in prayer*



*M-F 11:15  
Sat. 4:30  
Sun. 9:00*

Welcome to  
the Sisters' Chapel  
St. Francis Convent,  
Graymoor